AmericanGirl®

January/February 2002 americangirl.com $3.95

Quiz! Are You a Saver or a Spender?

Make Cute Pop-Up Cards

Free Valentine Stickers



PLUS! Your Most Embarrassing Moments

Throw a Dance Video Party!

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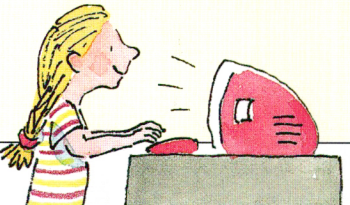
47 Help!

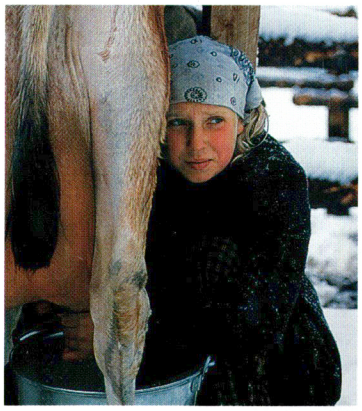
49 Shining Star

Plus: American Girl Valentine Stickers

See AG online!

Visit **americangirl.com** to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine! Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.





The New Frontier
This 21st-century girl is living a 19th-century life—on TV!

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Pop-Up Valentines
Create cute cards with our free stickers!

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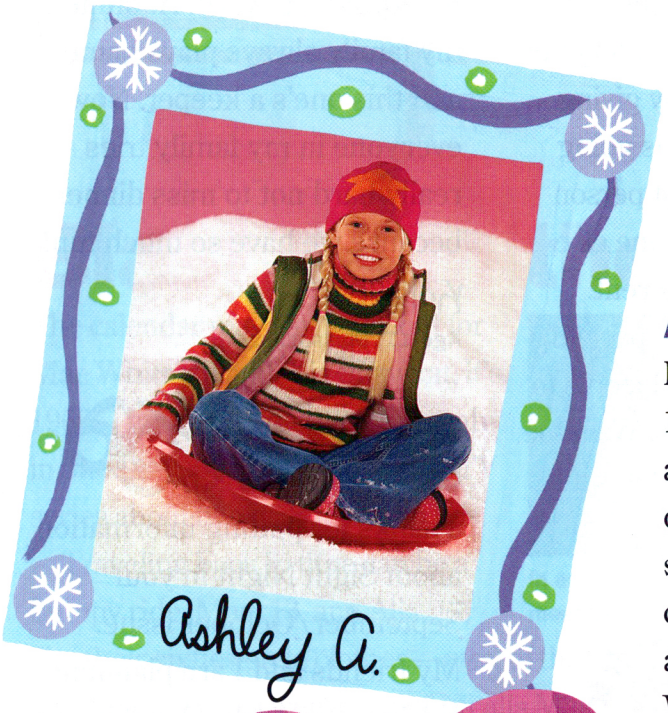


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About the Cover
Meet Ashley A., age 12 and Carrie-Rose M., age 11. They tried on an avalanche of striped sweaters, cool caps, and great gloves at our photo shoot. Want to see? Go to **americangirl.com** and vote for the outdoor outfit *you* like best!

Money Matters
Are you a spender or a saver? Plus: tips for getting the most out of your money.

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Dancing Divas
Make your own dance video at a sparkly slumber party!

14

Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

Cover photo: Monica Skeisvoll

Letters from You

World Traveler



I liked "Traveling Teddies" in the September/October 2001 issue. My cousin is sending her bear Abby on a trip by giving her to someone who is going out of state. Then that person is giving her to someone else who is going to a different state. My cousin even packed a journal with Abby for people to write about their trips. We hope Abby can visit all 50 states and meet a bunch of people.

Hayley P.
Age 12, New Hampshire

Poster Girls



Thank you for the "Be a Star!" poster in September/October. My best friend is moving soon, so we filled out our posters together and gave them to each other to remind us of all the good times we've had together.

Megan M.
Age 11, Georgia

Family Fun



In the September/October issue, I loved the family activity "Don't Say It" from "TGIF," where we all try not to say the forbidden word. At dinner, my family always plays games, and this one's a keeper. Now everyone in my family tries really hard not to miss dinner because we have so much fun!

Kelly M.
Age 11, Massachusetts

Great Glasses



Thanks for putting information about Sight Night in your September/October issue. My friends and I are planning a drive at our school and in our neighborhoods to collect old eyeglasses. We feel good about helping others see better!

Lucy T.
Age 10, New York

Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

AmericanGirl
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



You can also send letters via e-mail to im_agmag_editor@pleasantco.com.

No matter how you write us, be sure to include your name and birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Diane Morgenthaler, Publisher

Girls Express

Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

puling

How to say it: PYOOL-ing

What it means: whining

Where it comes from: ***Puling*** **is an old French word that sounds like its meaning. Say it out loud—does it sound like someone whining or whimpering?**

One way to use it: **"Megan knew it was time to play when her puppy Daisy started puling."**



The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? Answer is on page 42.

Blast from the Past

The calendar may say 2002, but for Mae Whitman and Alia Shawkat, it's 1965! They play Grace and Hannah in *State of Grace,* the Fox Family TV series about two girls in the sixties.



In one episode, Grace and Hannah meet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Traveling back in time can be a bumpy ride. Mae, 13, and Alia, 12, like their sixties-style clothes—*most* of the time. "There were some pants with a weird print," recalls Mae. "I couldn't believe people wore them—until my mom said she had some just like them when she was 10!" The girls also have to remember the "time change" when they ad-lib, or talk without a script. "We can't say 'rad' or 'the bomb,'" says Alia. "People didn't say that in 1965!"

Of course, the girls enjoy sweet sixties stuff—like all the retro candy they want. "We love wax lips and pixie sticks," says Alia. "The prop guy lets us take them home." Groovy!

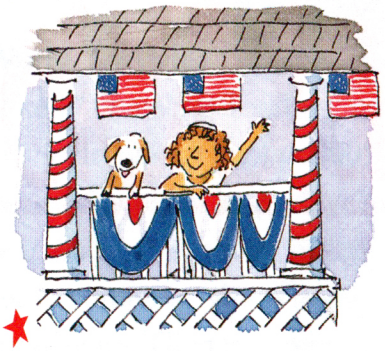


Alia, *left,* and Mae start each show with a secret handshake.

Photos: Fox Family Illustrations: Paul Meisel

Show Your Pride

Last fall, American girls really showed their spirit. Try some of their great ways to say, "Hooray for the USA!"



Wear your pride on your sleeves. A group of girls in Ohio designed and sold T-shirts to raise money for the Red Cross. They raised $200,000! Make a snazzy T-shirt yourself. Use fabric paint to draw stars and stripes. Wear it proudly!

Show your true colors. Last year, 450 kids and their teachers formed this human flag in North Carolina!



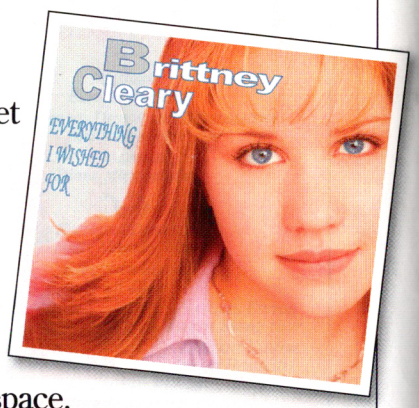
Give a tin-grin salute. Getting braces? Lots of kids are choosing red, white, and blue bands for a smile with American style!

Do a Yankee doodle. Eunice L., 13, of Washington state sent us this all-American alphabet. Try it!



Bead a bitty banner. Alyssa Q. and her friends made and sold 600 flag pins for charity. Learn how to make a flag pin at americangirl.com!

Instant Hit

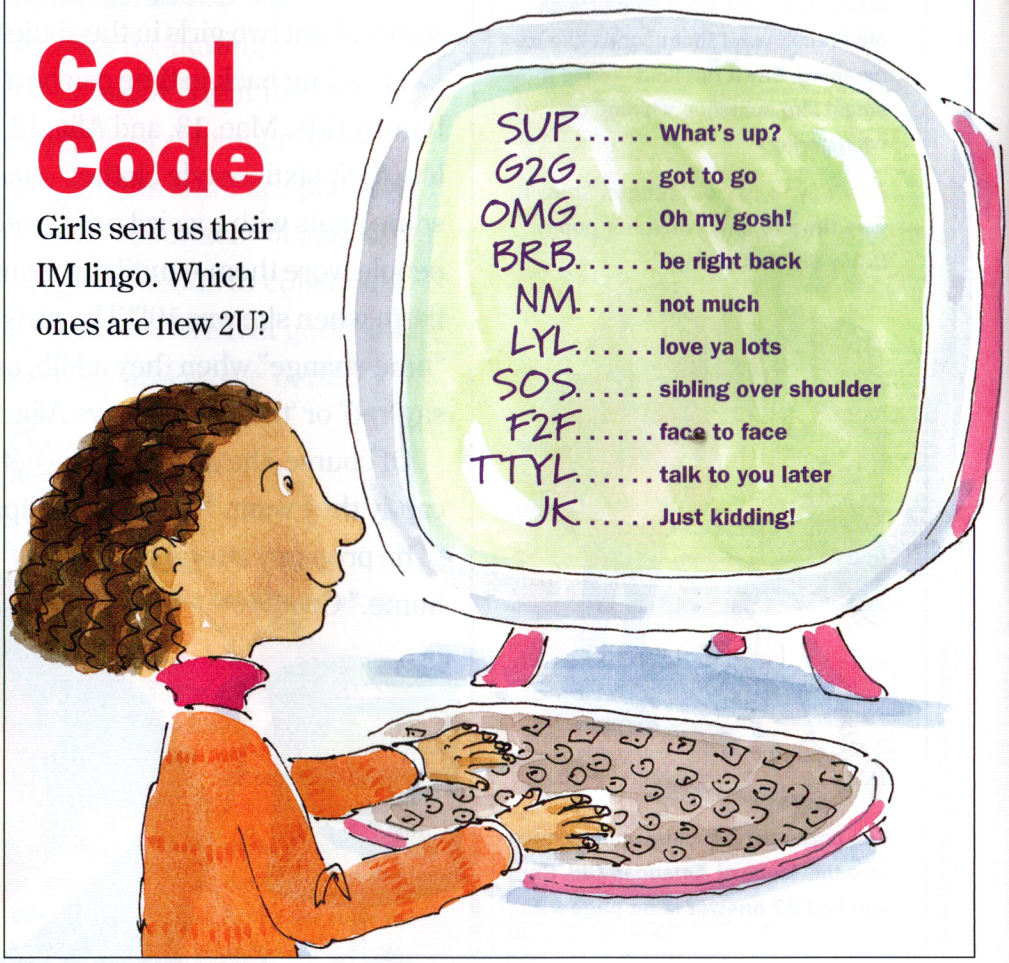


LOL, TTYL, BBFN—it sounds like alphabet soup, but to Brittney Cleary, these letters are the lyrics to a song! The 13-year-old singer has a new CD that includes "I.M. Me," a song about the special code online writers use for instant messages. In this code, writers shorten words to fit a small space. For example, "LOL" means "laughing out loud," and "BBFN" is "bye-bye for now."

Brittney, who's been singing in public for two years, wanted her CD to be about things kids could relate to. A songwriter friend offered to compose a song just for Brittney. "My mom suggested we do one about instant messaging," recalls the Tennessee teen. "That's what I do 24-7!" Want to hear a snippet of Brittney's tune? Visit americangirl.com—ASAP!

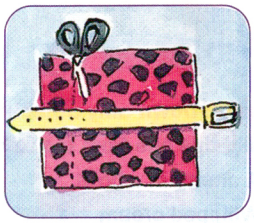
Cool Code

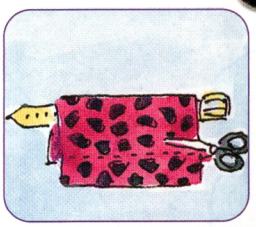
Girls sent us their IM lingo. Which ones are new 2U?



Pet Project

Make a collar cover for a furry friend.





1 Use scissors to trim a piece of fleece (available at fabric stores) to cover your pet's collar. Leave room so the buckle and holes still show.

2 Fold fleece around collar. Trim edges so that the cover is wide enough to slip off the collar easily. Attach long edges with tacky craft glue. Let dry.

Pet Project photo: Mike McKenzie Additional credits on page 2.

True Story

Kate's Harry Potter site takes a magical ride on the Web.



Dear American Girl,

Two years ago, I made a Web site called "The Wonderful World of Harry Potter." About six months later, I heard from a Web company called Fandom.com. They were surprised to learn I was a kid! They liked my site so much that they offered me a monthly salary to manage it for them. After discussing it with my mom, I decided to go for it. I felt like an owl had just brought me my acceptance letter to Hogwarts!

Last spring, Fandom.com went out of business. At first I felt like I'd met one of Harry's dementors and all the joy had been sucked right out of my body. But then I realized that you can't have big adventures without risking losses. I still have my online friends, and my Web site is my own again. Visit me at www.wwohp.f2s.com!

Sincerely,

Kate C.

Age 14, Pennsylvania

P.S. I think J.K. Rowling signed my online guest book. I can't know it was her for sure—but it sounded like her!

AG POLL



Your answers:

In our September/October 2001 issue, we asked you which TV show you'd most like to be in. Here are your top picks:



Lizzie McGuire



Boy Meets World



So Little Time

Next question:

Do you have an unusual nickname? What is it? How did you get it? Write your nickname below and tell us how you feel about it. If you could, would you change it?

Nickname: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your name, address, and birth date.



Simply Charming

See how a new card game stacks up!



"This is a cool game. If you have four of the same cards, you yell 'Charm!' and everyone grabs for one of the little hearts. I'd totally buy it."

★★★★★

Keira D.
Age 10, California

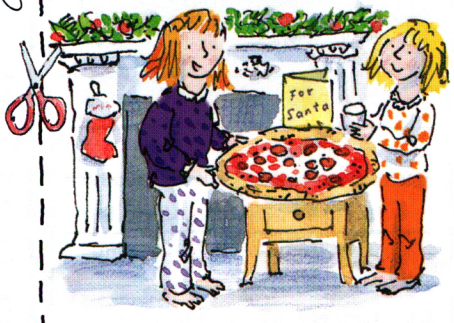


She's Charmed and Dangerous
by Gamewright, $10

Cut out your answer and mail it to us.

Help Wanted

Do you and your family have an unusual holiday tradition? Does your dad make meat loaf for Thanksgiving? Do you leave a pizza for Santa instead of cookies and milk? Do you go caroling on New Year's Eve? Tell us about your unique holiday traditions. Send a letter to the address on page 2 with your name, birth date, and address.



Super Sundae Contest

Upside-Down Silly Smacker
Build this one from top to bottom!
- A cherry in a bowl
- Whipped cream
- M&M's or gummy bears
- Chocolate syrup
- Chocolate and vanilla ice cream

Clare M.
Age 12

Angie M.
Age 9, California

Zebra Sundae
- Chocolate ice cream
- Chocolate fudge sauce
- Flaked sweetened coconut
- Whipped cream
- Mini marshmallows
- Chocolate sprinkles

Maggie B.
Age 10, California

Peppermint Pleaser
- Brownie
- Peppermint ice cream
- Chocolate fudge sauce
- 1 Peppermint Patty, in pieces

Kathryn P.
Age 9, Rhode Island

It may be winter, but these winning treats will make you feel like summer!

Tropical Treat
- Lime sherbet
- Pineapple rings
- Flaked coconut
- Whipped cream

Serve with a paper umbrella!

Courtney J.
Age 9, Maryland

Happy Apple
- Vanilla ice cream
- Canned apple pie filling
- Caramel topping
- Dash of cinnamon

Leah T.
Age 11, Texas

S'more Sundae
- Chocolate ice cream
- Marshmallow Fluff
- Chocolate syrup
- 1 graham cracker, crumbled
- Mini marshmallows

Kristen S.
Age 10, Illinois

Fizzin' Bananas
This one really pops!
- Vanilla ice cream
- Pop Rocks candy
- Banana slices
- Chocolate syrup
- A cherry on top

Nancy L.
Age 11, Illinois

Two New Contests!

AG Poetry Contest: Write a poem about a favorite "something." Is it a season, a thing in your room, or a special memory? Your poem can rhyme or not—just make it about something you love—a lot!

Soda Pop Contest: Invent a bubbly beverage! Would your soda be sweet to sip, or would your pop make you pucker? What would you name it? What would the label look like? Draw a picture of your soda pop and tell us its flavor. Cheers!

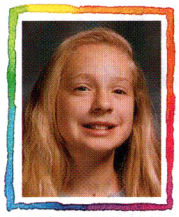
Send your entries for either contest to the address on page 2 with your name, address, and birth date. Deadline: February 15, 2002. Winners will appear in our July/August 2002 issue.

Heart to Heart

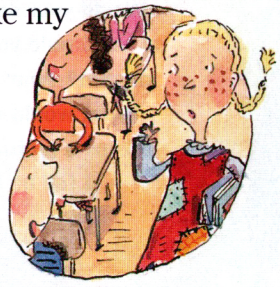
"Oh, No!"



What's the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you? How can you keep cool when you want to hide?



I was the new girl in school. I wore my hair like Pippi Longstocking when I thought it was Wacky Hair Day—but it was the wrong day! No one else was dressed up. The teacher even had to pull out the hanger I used to make my braids stick out. I don't think I'll ever forget it.

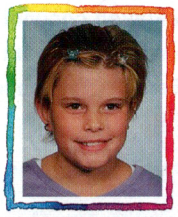


Allyson B.
Age 11, Oregon



If you do something wrong and get embarrassed, remember: everyone makes mistakes. If you see someone mess up, don't make fun of them. You wouldn't want them to feel any worse.

Sarah S.
Age 10, Ohio



I thought I saw my grandma at this restaurant. I yelled "Boo!" and gave her a big hug. But it wasn't my grandma—it was a lady who *looked* like my grandma. I was so mortified!

Kelsey H.
Age 11, Michigan



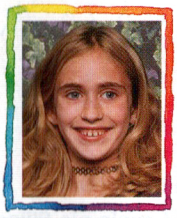
Get embarrassed? Not me! Instead of turning beet red, I join in the fun and laugh it off.

Danielle O.
Age 10, Florida



Once I was a hippo in a play. When I started crawling, my pants fell down! The whole school saw.

Heather C.
Age 8, California



I was embarrassed in Social Studies class when I said Bill Clinton was on Mount Rushmore! Everyone laughed at me. My dad even laughed when I told him later. If it happened again, I would laugh, too.

Phillisa R.
Age 11, Wisconsin

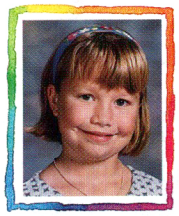


I was at the mall with my mom. I accidentally went to the wrong car in the parking lot and touched it. The car alarm went off, and everyone was looking at me! I wanted my life to reverse back so I could undo my mistake.



Emily H.
Age 9, Massachusetts

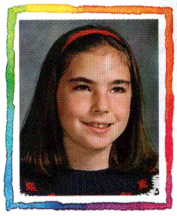
Illustrations: Laura Cornell



One day at school I was wearing my brand new slip-on sandals. As I was walking down the hall to my classroom, I tripped and fell right on my face! Everyone stared. I was so embarrassed, I almost ran home and hid under my bed.



Mary Kate L.
Age 8, Illinois



Embarrassment is only what you make it. If you keep reminding people of the incident, you'll only get more embarrassed.

Brianna W.
Age 11, Illinois



I was eating dinner at my friend's house. We were talking about what we want to be when we grow up. I meant to say "a veterinarian," but instead I said "a vegetarian." Everyone laughed, even my friend. I was really mad.

Karah M.
Age 9, Florida



Once in a while, I have piano performances. Sometimes I make mistakes and get really embarrassed, but I keep playing. I realized that no one else notices my mistakes as much as I do.

Jing Yi M.
Age 10, New York



One night I forgot to set my alarm clock before bed. When I woke up, I had five minutes to get dressed. I got to school and realized that I still had on my Scooby Doo pajama shirt! I was embarrassed, but now I remember to set my clock!

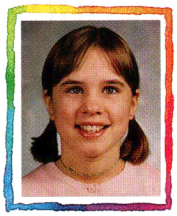


Elle W.
Age 13, Illinois



I was asking my teacher a question, but she did not hear me. When I asked again, I accidentally called her "Mama." My friends heard, and we laughed so hard, we cried.

Lorisa M.
Age 11, Colorado



When you get embarrassed, think of a time when you saw another person humiliated. How long did it take you to forget about it? How much did it matter to you? It's the same for other people when *you* mess up.

Catherine M.
Age 12, Minnesota

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Tales of true friendship. Has someone ever done something to show she was a true friend? Did she stand up for you? Keep a secret? Share her lunch when you forgot yours? Help you when you *really* needed it?

Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to: AmericanGirl 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562.

Deadline: February 7, 2002. Some answers will appear in the July/August 2002 issue. ★



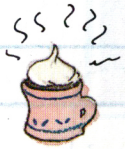
Amelia's Notebook

WINTER

By Marissa Moss

(and snowball expert, Amelia)

green circle (or easy) trails ↓



↑ the path to the snack shop

I have my own list of ways to make winter more fun. →

SNOW DOs

1. Do drink hot chocolate often (marshmallows are optional).





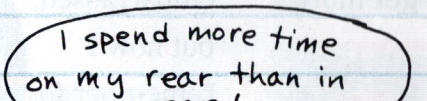
2. Do catch snowflakes on the tip of your tongue.

this, not this





↑ following behind Cleo – she clears a WIDE path



3. Do <u>stand</u> on your snowboard instead of <u>sitting</u> in the snow.





↑ sliding downhill on your bottom

4. Do make your snowmen distinctive.

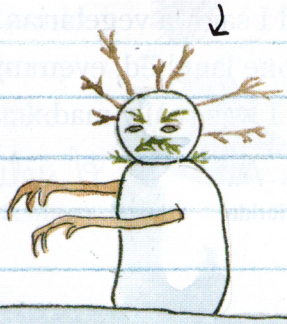
not this ↓



but this ↓



or this ↓




WISDOM
Oops!
These are things to AVOID — for your sake AND others'!
SNOW DON'Ts
Hey!
1. Don't drop anything from the ski lift.
2. Don't use snowboarding lingo unless you know what it means.
I like to ollie on the trolley, but I hit a lolly and, by golly, it made me fall-y!
↑ Snowboarders have cool names for their tricks, but these aren't it!
black diamond (or hard) trails
3. Don't snowboard, ski, or go sledding with wet hair — EVER! And don't drink anything cold while you're outside — you'll regret it!
chatter chatter
real brain freeze
My legs are like sacks of wet sand!
↑ the steps up to your cabin after a day on the slopes
4. Don't give up — no matter how much you fall.
Look on the bright side — I'm in the perfect position to make a snow angel!
I guess these socks are permanently attached now.
↑ getting out of wet snow clothes

Test Your Skin Smarts

What should you know so you'll have a healthy glow? Take this quiz and find out!

1. You've been noticing some weird lumps and bumps around your hairline lately. They could be caused by…

a. your shampoo.

b. your bangs.

c. your hair gel.



2. You're sick of being called Freckle Face! To reduce your freckles, you…

a. stay out of the sun.

b. buy Freckle-Free Miracle Cream.

c. rub your cheeks with a lemon slice every day.

3. Your skin's been awfully dry and itchy lately. You…

a. drink more water.

b. take hot showers.

c. take more bubble baths.

d. scratch, scratch, scratch.

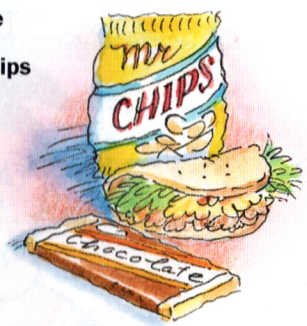
4. Oh, no! Pimples are popping up all over! Which of these foods should you avoid?

a. Chocolate

b. Potato chips

c. Tacos

d. None of the above



Need more help? Visit www.aad.org/kids

5. You and your family are going skiing. Where should you apply sunscreen?

a. The back of your neck

b. Your hair part

c. Your ears

d. Your lips

e. All of the above

f. None of the above—you don't need sunscreen in the winter, silly!

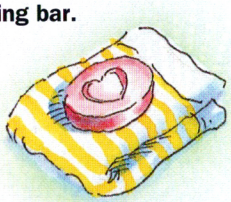


6. You found a facial soap you really like, but lately it seems like you've been breaking out more. You…

a. stick with the soap. It smells great!

b. try a mild cleansing bar.

c. give your skin a break for a while, and wash only every other day.



7. The morning of the big valentine party, you wake up with a pimple the size of Mount Rushmore. You…

a. squeeze it.

b. leave it.

c. try every pimple cream you can find.

Illustrations: Norm Bendell

Answers



1. c. Goopy hair products can clog your poor pores. Do your face a favor, and go easy on the gel. Keep your hair clean and pulled back. Avoid touching your face with your hands, too.

2. a. Freckles are your skin's secret weapon! They're trying to protect you from too much sun. You can't make them go away completely, but staying out of the sun—and using a strong sunscreen when you are outside—will keep more from popping up. In the meantime, try to learn to love your dots—a lot!



3. a. Steamy showers and bubble baths may be relaxing, but they can dry out your skin. Think H2*ahhh!* and drink six to eight glasses of water a day. Soothe dry patches with a lotion like Eucerin or Neutrogena Moisture.

4. d. Doctors can't prove that chocolate or greasy foods cause zits. But loading up on junk food could be a sign that you're stressed, and stress *can* make you break out. If you're feeling a ton of tension, talk to someone you trust.

5. e. You still need sunscreen—even on cloudy winter days, and especially at high altitudes. Use a sunscreen with an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 or higher. Use lots, and reapply it often. Check the expiration date—if the tube is old, toss it. Use a lip balm with sunscreen, too.

6. b. Your body's changing, so what worked last month may not work now. Unless you're having pimple problems, all you need is a mild soap (look for "cleansing bar" or "beauty bar" on the label). Make sure the soap is free of perfumes and dyes—they could irritate your skin. If your skin is oily, *gently* wash your face daily with an acne soap.



7. b. You've heard it before, but it's true: never, ever squeeze a zit! You could cause an infection or scarring. Too many pimple potions can hurt your skin, too. For a big day, try a simple concealer and a light, clear powder from the drugstore. Place a tiny dab of concealer on the pimple, and wait for it to dry. Then apply the powder lightly—ask your mom or a friend if you need help. If your zits are *really* giving you fits, see a dermatologist (skin doctor). Your skin will thank you!



The Scoop on Skin Stuff

In a lather over which products to use? Try these:

Zit Zapper
Neutrogena
Oil-Free
Acne Wash



Sun Fun
Banana Boat
Cool Colorz
Sunblock

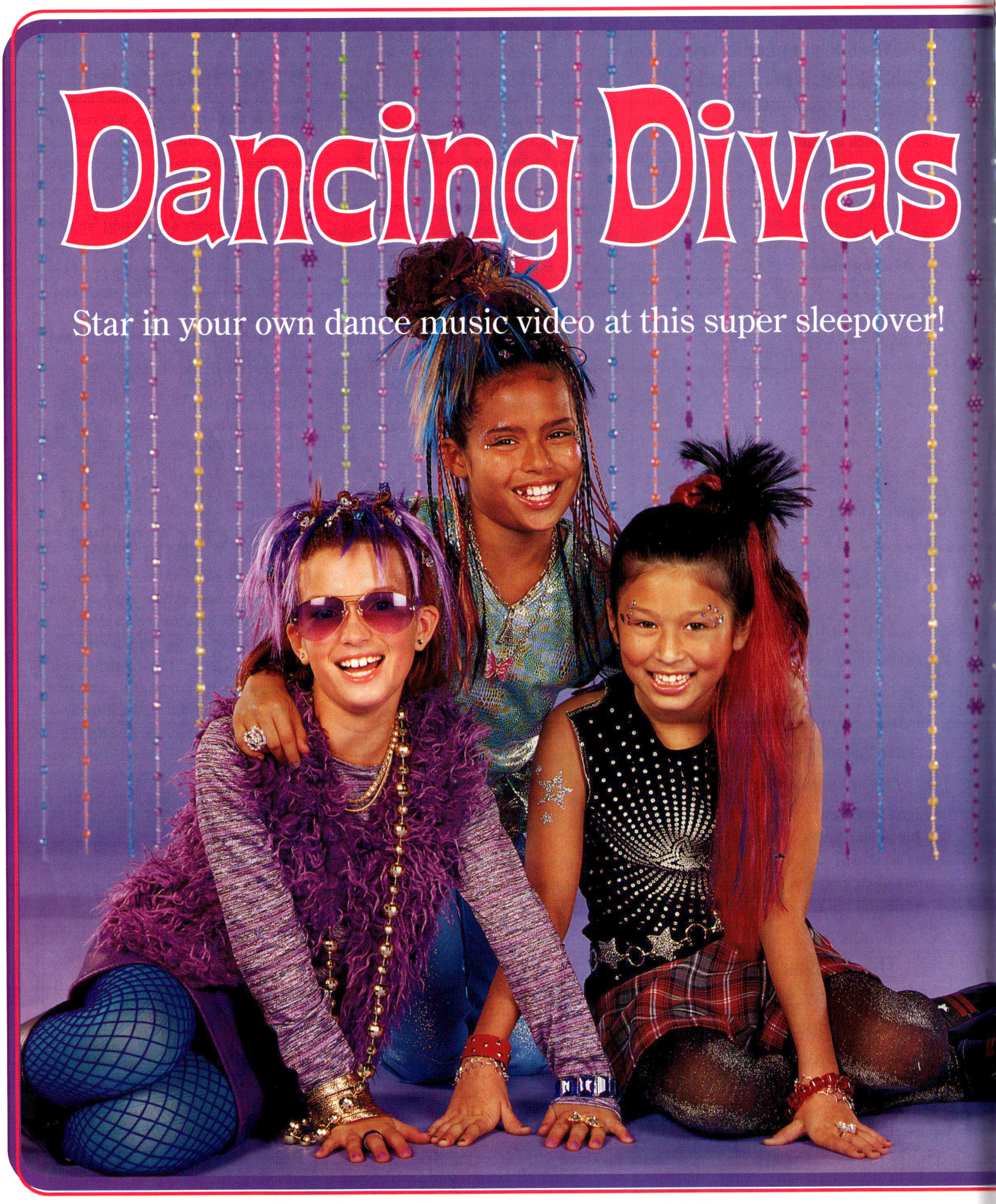


Hip Lips
Fruit Smoothies
with sunscreen
by Blistex



Dancing Divas

Star in your own dance music video at this super sleepover!





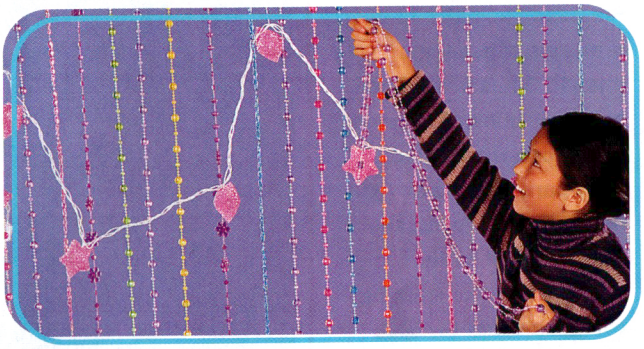
Invitation

Glue a piece of holograph paper (available at craft stores) to a piece of poster board. Trace around a CD onto the paper. Cut out shape. Write party details on the back. If you have some empty CD cases, put each invitation in one! Decorate case with jewels.

- Keep the guest list *very* small. It will be easier to choreograph the routine with fewer girls.
- Ask guests to bring dress-up clothes, but also supply some yourself. Resale shops have star-quality clothes and accessories at a reasonable price!

Setting the Stage

You'll need a cool set for your video. Choose a room in the house big enough to perform your dance. A simple background, like a plain wall, is best, or you can ask Mom or Dad to help you hang a bedsheet. You can also add door beads and twinkle lights for a funky set.





Party Favors

Get the party started by giving your fellow dancers a small gift bag filled with lots of glam! Include body glitter, nail polish, and a fun hair accessory.

Stage One–Preparation

Wardrobe

Gather all of your glam duds and start trying on snazzy combinations. Don't forget accessories! Feather boas, sunglasses, and big-beaded necklaces will look smashing on video. Change into your outfits, but set accessories aside until the final performance.



Casting

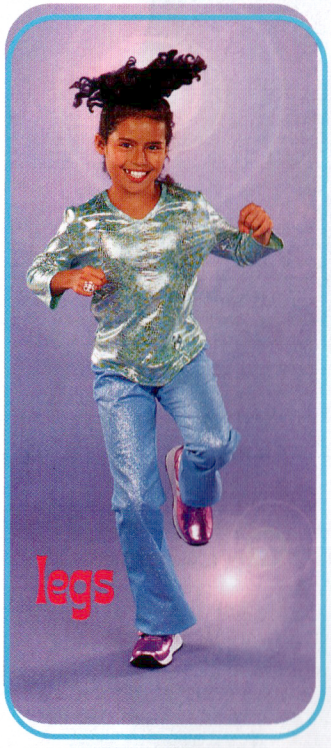
Not everyone likes to be in the spotlight. If one of your friends isn't comfortable with dancing or being "onstage," she could be the video director, camera gal, hair stylist, or choreographer.

Stage 2–Dance Choreography

Get It Together

Don't start dancing without a good warm-up! Turn on some dance tunes. Assign each of your guests to a body part: For example, girl 1 has arms, girl 2 has legs, and girl 3 has head. Each girl must think of a dance move for her assigned body part. When every girl has her move down, she must teach it to the other girls. After learning everyone's moves, put them all together. Use your new combination in your video and repeat it more than once (so there is less to remember!).







Groovin' Tunes

Check out your local library for dance music CDs. If you need help choosing a song, here are some music groups with a funky groove:

Dee-Lite

A★Teens

Aqua

Dream



Dance together as a group instead of one person being the "star," or take turns being in the spotlight!

Making the Moves

Here are some tips on choreographing your dance routine:



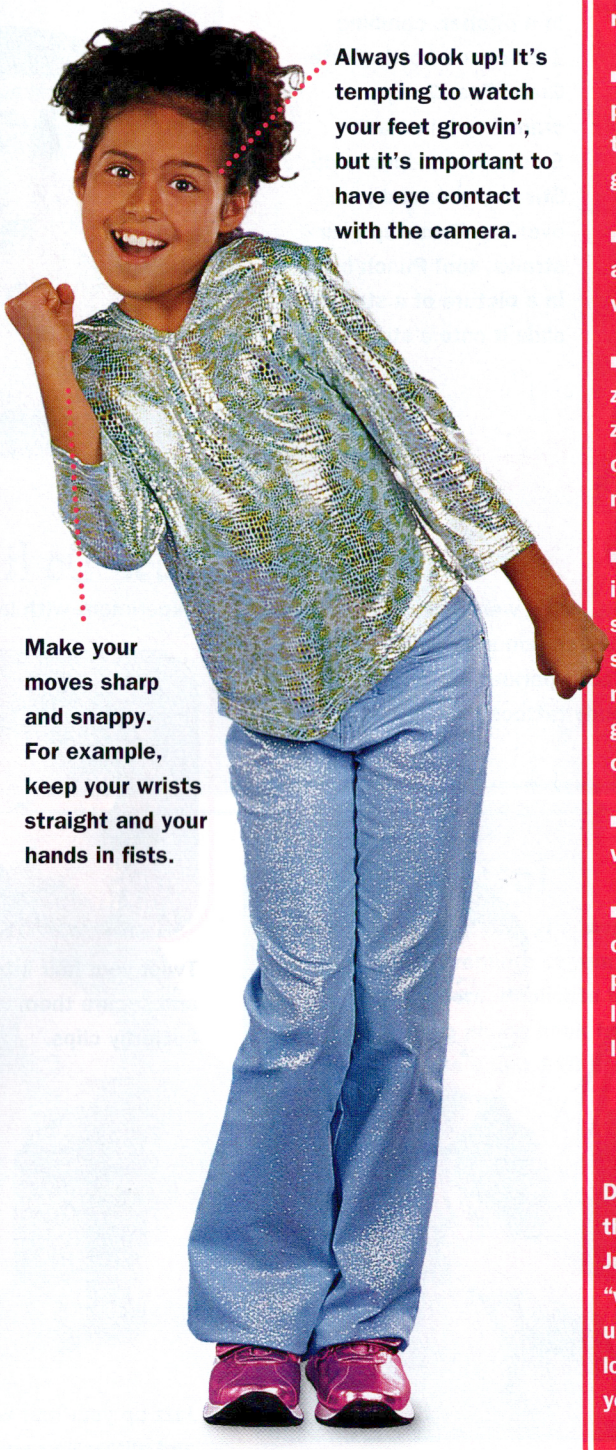
If you forget your dance moves, keep moving! You'll draw less attention to yourself if you are still dancing.



Your feet don't always have to be moving. Simply move your hips or shoulders—you are still dancing.



Ham it up! Be dramatic and over-exaggerate your moves. The more fun *you* have, the more fun it is to watch.



Always look up! It's tempting to watch your feet groovin', but it's important to have eye contact with the camera.

Make your moves sharp and snappy. For example, keep your wrists straight and your hands in fists.

Camera Time!

- If you don't have a video recorder, you can rent one.
- Videotape the entire party so you can see your transformation from normal girls to superstars!
- Choose someone with a steady hand to film the video, or use a tripod.
- Remember to use the zoom button, but don't zoom in and out too fast or use it too much. That makes the viewer dizzy!
- It's more interesting if there are a variety of shots—for example, a wide shot of the whole group, a medium shot of a couple girls, and a close-up shot of one girl.
- If you are panning the whole group, do it slowly.
- Make sure there is plenty of light directed at the performers. Add extra lighting by using spare lamps and utility lights.

Lip Sync 101

Don't know the lyrics to the song you're performing? Just mouth the word "watermelon" when you're unsure of the words. It will look like you know what you're singing!

Photos: Mike McKenzie/Hot Shots; Monica Skeisvoll Styling: Jamie Hanson, Judy Keith, Jim Rude Additional credits on page 2.

Stage 3–Take a Break

Pop bands like *NSync and Dream like healthy snacks before they perform. Here are two snack ideas that will energize you for your final performance!



Superstar Sipper

In a pitcher, combine 1 20-ounce bottle SoBe Green Tea, 2 cups cranberry juice, and 5 cups lemon-lime soda. Stir together and pour over ice. Dress up your straws, too! Punch holes in a picture of a star and slide it onto a straw.







Pita Pizza

Stir together 1 cup cream cheese and 4 teaspoons dry ranch salad dressing mix. Spread on pitas. Set out dishes filled with vegetables and cheese. Have each girl customize her own pizza!

Stage 4–The Production

Beautify

When you are performing, you'll want to make sure your fantastic features can be seen on screen. Use glitter body gel to make your face sparkle. Apply lip gloss for a shiny grin and sparkle body tattoos to your cheeks for extra shimmer.



Just 'Do It

Experiment with lots of different 'dos that are ultra-hip.



Twist your hair into knots and secure them with butterfly clips.



Place sparkle hair snaps all over your head.



Jazz up your hair with color and glitter hair spray.



Experiment with hair extensions (or wigs, if you have some) and fake hair ponytail wraps.

Stage 5–The Grand Finale

You have the dance moves down, you're completely *glam*ified, and you are ready to perform your heart out. Let the camera roll!





That's a Wrap!

It's time to put on your pj's, pop some popcorn, and view the world premiere of your video! As a gift for your fellow dancers, duplicate the video for each of them. Check the phone book for video duplicating services. It costs about $10 per tape.

Calling All Divas!

We want to see your transformation into pop stars. Send a photo of your performance to the address on page 2.

Money Matters

Do you shop till you drop, or do you think it's nifty to be thrifty? Take our quiz and find out if you're a big spender or a savvy saver.

Quiz

Imagine you received **$100** over the holidays. How would you spend it? Answer these questions, and keep track of how much you spend.



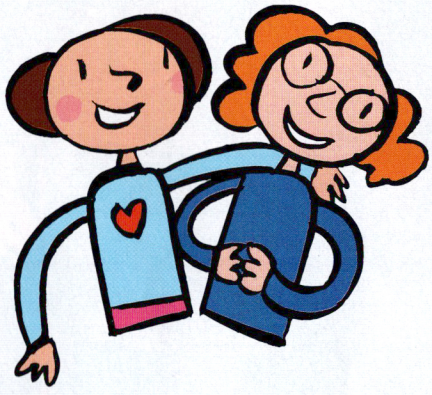
1. You and a buddy want to see a movie. You…

a. each buy evening tickets plus popcorn, soda, and Junior Mints. $12

b. go to a matinee and split a bag of popcorn. $7

c. rent a video and watch it at home with microwave popcorn. $4





2. You want to give your best friend a valentine treat. You…

a. buy her that CD she's been wanting. $15

b. buy her a card and bead her an ankle bracelet. $6

c. draw a comic strip about the two of you, and hide it in her locker with her favorite candy bar. 50 cents

3. You can't decide between two pairs of earrings. You…

a. buy them both. $20

b. do "eenie, meenie, miney, mo," then pick the winning pair. $10

c. buy some cute toe socks instead. $5



The Urge to Splurge

Readers tell about the most money they ever spent—and how it made them feel.



"I saved $152 to buy gifts and souvenirs in England. It felt good not asking my mom for money all the time."

Briana S., age 13

"I got a portable CD player for $70. Buying it made me feel very grown-up and satisfied."

Karen B., age 11

4. Hooray—it's a snow day! You and your friends…

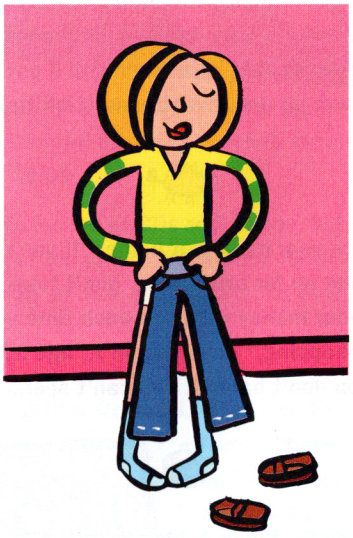
a. rent ice skates at the local rink. **$3**

b. have a snow sculpture contest in your backyard. **$0**

c. set up a cider stand at the nearby sledding hill. ***Make*** **$6**



23
24
47



5. You need new jeans. You…

a. go to the mall and get the latest jeans, plus a top and an Orange Julius. **$45**

b. wait until your favorite store has a sale, and buy a trendy pair of jeans. **$20**

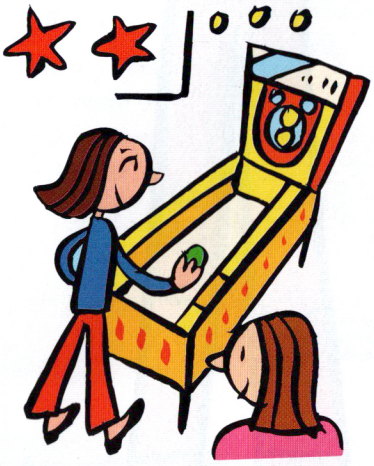
c. buy jeans at a discount store. **$15**

6. You're playing the arcade games at Pete's Pizza and Prizes. You quit playing when…

a. you have enough tickets to get the cool keychain. **$5**

b. you have enough tickets for some fake tattoos and stickers. **$3**

c. the pizza's ready. **$1**



Answers

Subtract or add what you spent or made from $100.

$100 Holiday Money

− 39 Money Spent

+ 6 Money Earned

= 23 Money Left

$20 or Less Left

Tend to Spend

You love to have fun with your funds! But sometimes you have trouble saying no to something you like. Go easy with your spending sprees—you know money doesn't *really* grow on trees.

$21 to $64 Left

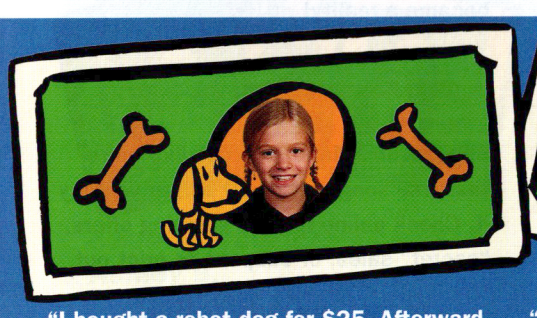
Penny-Wise

To you, money is like a Tootsie Pop—you like to make it last and last! You enjoy spending money, but you know how to save it, too. You often look for the best bargain, and you know how to say no to splurges you don't need.

$65 or More Left

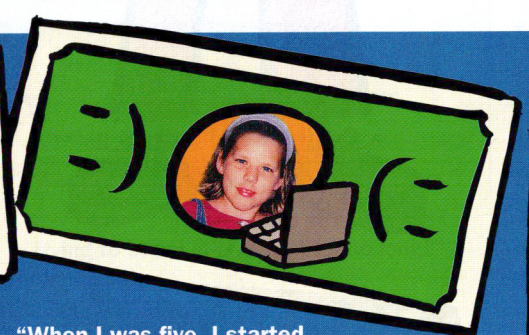
Super Saver

Your piggy bank is one happy hog! You're great at setting goals and saving for the future. That's a plan you can bank on!



"I bought a robot dog for $25. Afterward I felt like I should have saved my money for something else."

Amy L., age 11



"When I was five, I started saving for a computer. It cost about $800. Now I love going online!"

Maureen T., age 10

Are you saving for something special—or does money burn a hole in your pocket? Turn the page for smart tips that make good cents!

Easy Come, Easy Go?

Try these tips to **s-t-r-e-t-c-h** your dollars and make your money **GROW.**

Spending

Make a list. Write down what you need before you go shopping, and don't buy anything that's not on your list.

Pass up the little extras. The cute stuff stashed by the cash register is there to tempt you. Be brave—say no and save! Lydia W., age 11, says, "I remind myself how what I really want is more important than a pretty bottle of nail polish."

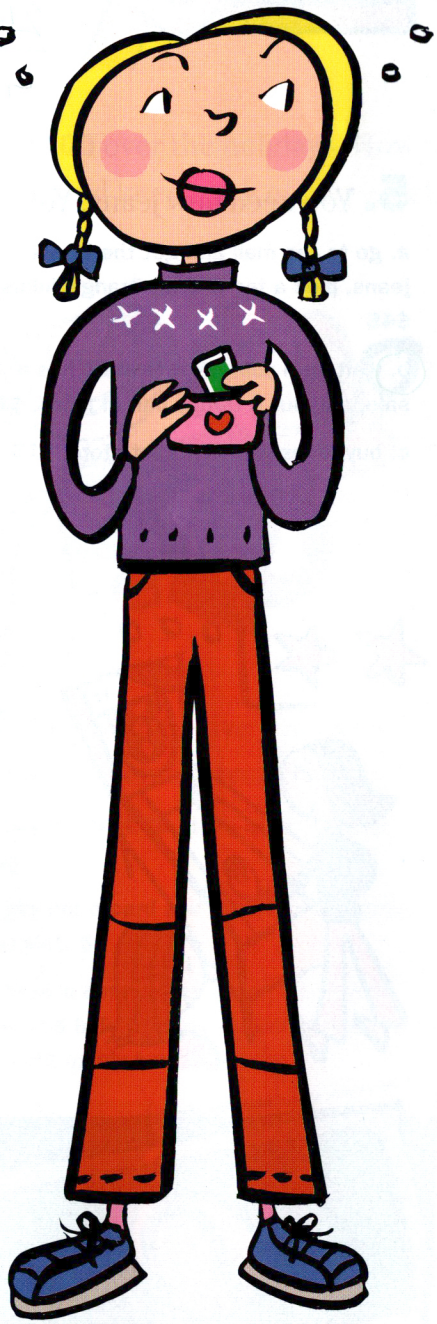
Head to the back of the store. That's where the best deals are! Start there instead of the front of the store, where all the newest—and priciest—stuff is.

Dare to compare. Two stores carry the same jeans—but one store has them on sale! Shop around for the best deals.

Speak up. Don't be afraid to ask a clerk when an item will go on sale.

Play "Potatoes or Gravy?" Ask yourself, "Do I really need this?" If the answer is yes, it's a potato. If the answer is no, it's gravy. When you shop, stock up on your veggies, and go easy on the gravy.

Wait a week. If you still want it, go back and get it.



Want to be a millionaire? Visit www.kidsbank.com/calculators/millionaire

Saving

Do the splits. Divide your money into four jars—money for needs, money for wants, money to save, and money to give. Decide how much you'll put in each jar each week, and stick to it.

Leave your money at home. "If you're saving up for something, don't take all your money with you each time you go shopping," says Kaitlin J., age 11. If you don't have it, you can't spend it!

Set goals. When Ashley B., age 13, wanted some new inline skates, she did her homework first. "I found the ones I liked and made a chart with the price at the top," she says. "I kept track of my savings until I got to the top!"

Picture it. Mamie S., age 11, needed nearly $100 for a special toy. So she taped up a picture of it to help her save. In less than a year, her picture became a reality!

Shop smart. Make sure you like more than one song on the CD before you buy it. Check online for free shipping offers, "secret" sales, or coupons to print out.

#1 way to save: "Keep away from the mall!" —Heather P., age 12

Illustrations: Isabelle Dervaux

Three $prees

Last summer, we asked girls to see how much fun they could have with **$10, $5—** and **$0.** Who had the best time? You decide!



Emily S. and Mamie S.

- Painted at a local pottery store—$9.09

"We looked at CDs and videos, but they cost too much. We painted for more than an hour and had a great time!"

Amanda P. and Mackenzie W.

- Went go-cart racing—$9
- Played arcade games—$1

"We had a blast racing each other and playing games!"



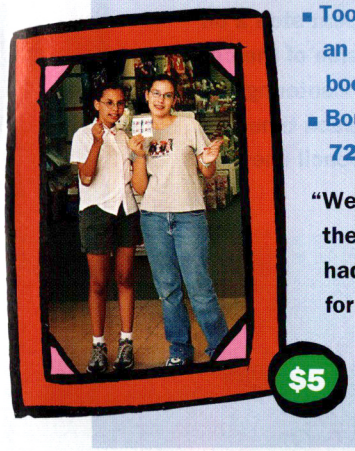


Natalie L. and Rachel M.

- Ate out at a Mexican restaurant—$8.65 with tip

"We wanted burritos and nachos, but with tax that came to $9.59," says Rachel. "Not much left for a tip! So Natalie had a burger, which cost less."

Laura M. and Heather P.



- Took pictures at an instant photo booth—$3
- Bought candy—72 cents

"We put some of the money we had left in a box for pet rescues."

Cindy A. and Katie B.

- Bought cake mix, frosting, and cake decorations—$4.39

"We went home and made the cake. It was delicious!"

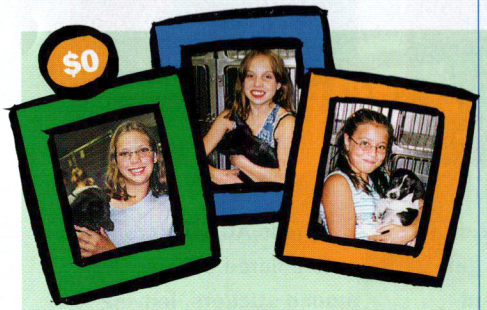


Talia K. and Amanda S.



- Bought scrunchies and an S- and Z-comb set—$5
- Went home and fixed each other's hair

"The money for hair things didn't go as far as we'd thought it would."



Kaela I., Courtney J., and Ashley B.

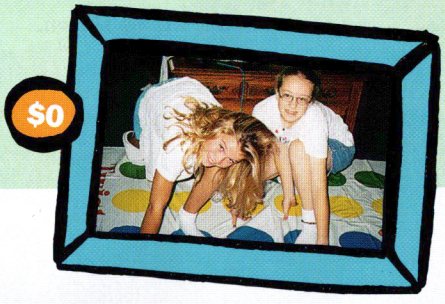
- Volunteered at a local animal shelter

"We were there for about an hour. It was more fun than going to the mall!"

Amanda S. and Talia K.

- Played Don't Sink in the Sink and Twister
- Borrowed *The Miracle Worker* from the library and watched it

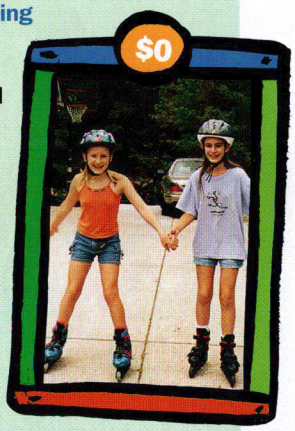
"We got into some pretty funny Twister positions. Amanda had to sit down after trying to stand in one spot for so long!"



Mackenzie W. and Amanda P.

- Went inline skating and swimming

"We skated around the neighborhood and then had a diving contest at the pool. We had a ton of fun for no money at all!" ★



Pop-Up Valentines!

Fold, cut, glue, and decorate—give a card that you create!

YOU WILL NEED

- One 8-by-6-inch sheet of cardstock
- 2 pencils
- One 8-by-6-inch sheet of scrapbook or colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick or glue pen
- AG stickers for decoration

Optional for decorating cards:

- Fabric applique
- Heart-shaped hole punch

Makes one 4-by-6-inch pop-up card



1 Fold cardstock in half lengthwise. This will be the inside of your card. Use side of pencil to smooth folded edge.



2 Lay pencil down on center of fold. Use other pencil to trace a line about 1 inch long on either side.



3 Repeat step 2 on either side of the center marks, centering the pencil each time. Cut along pencil lines.



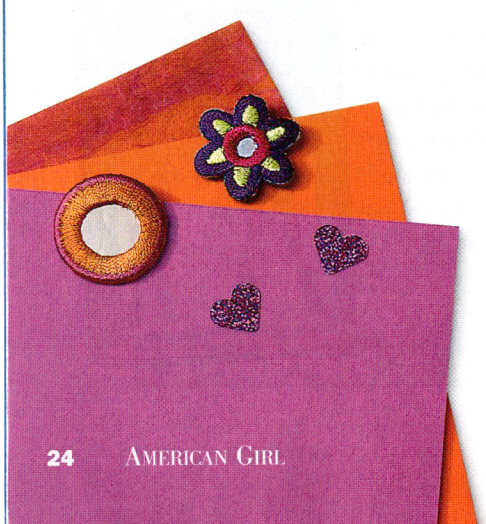
4 Open card and fold strips the opposite way, as shown.



5 Fold other sheet of paper in half. Apply glue to back of inside card and attach to outside card, as shown.

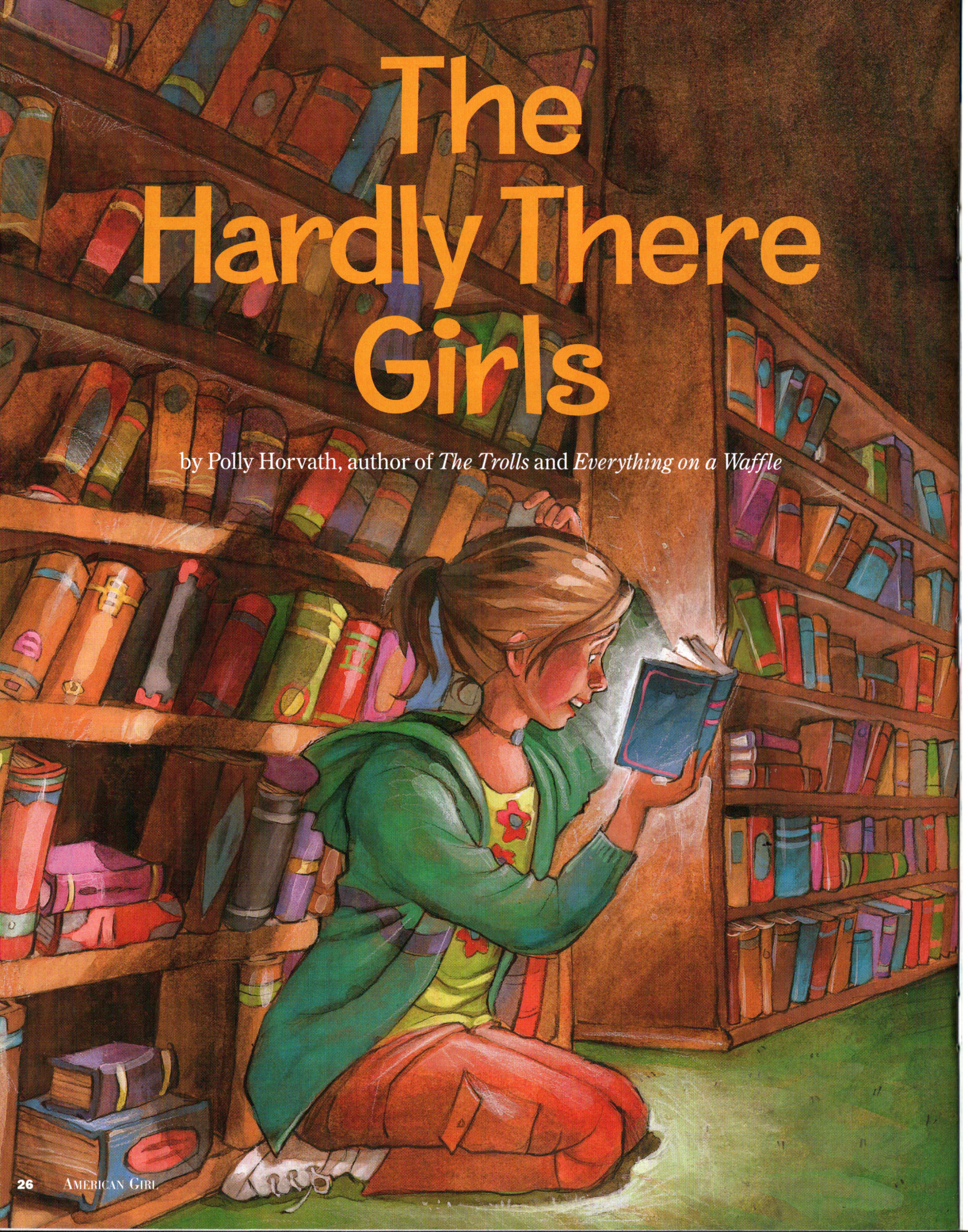


6 Press AG stickers onto colored papers. Cut around stickers, leaving a paper border. Glue to pop-up strips.



Photos: Mike McKenzie/Hot Shots


bee
mine
L o v e
Best
Buds
Happy
Valentine's
Day!
HUGS
Tips:
■ Use different sizes of paper to make larger or smaller cards.
■ Cut the inside or outside of the card smaller to create a border.★



The Hardly There Girls

by Polly Horvath, author of *The Trolls* and *Everything on a Waffle*

Days of rain, a weird book, and some missing valentines set Kathy on the road to enlightenment. But will she find peace and contentment?

In wintertime in Oregon the rain never stops. It drums against the roofs and hammers the ground. In the long gray rains of February, half the population goes quietly crazy. The other half are kind of noisy about it.

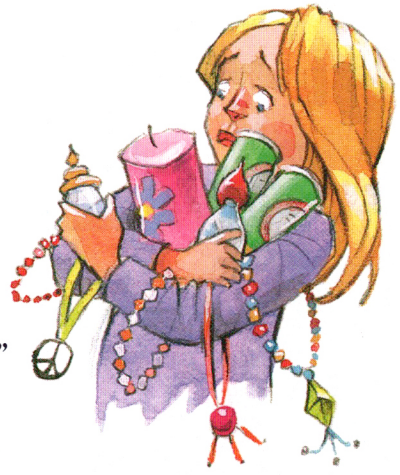
Kathy Spelling (11) and her sister, Marissa Spelling (9), lived in Pittsyu, Oregon, where it had been raining for thirty-three days.

Kathy was in the library waiting for her mother in the non-fiction section when someone accidentally knocked a book off the shelf and onto her head. She picked it up to replace it and read the title: MARY JO HEPKIN'S GUIDE TO ENLIGHTENMENT AND OTHER GOOD STUFF.

Hmmm, she thought, opening it and skimming the paragraphs. *My goodness,* she thought, as she read on. *What in the world have we here,* she thought, as she ended Chapter Two. When Kathy came to Chapter Four: How to Know if You're an Enlightened Being in Disguise, she knew that February was going to be an interesting month after all.

"Marissa!" called Kathy when she got home. "Get out the essential oils and crystals. Dig up those old yin-yang candles, flower essences, and mood rings. We need some power beads, some ginseng, and, oh yeah, I think we're gonna need a juicer."

"Uh oh," said Marissa, who was used to Kathy's sudden enthusiasms. "A juicer? But there's juice in the fridge."



"Never mind that," said Kathy hastily. "We're enlightened beings and we're going to spread enlightenment around Pittsyu and solve its Great Mysteries."

Marissa didn't know what enlightenment meant and this was the first she had heard of any great mysteries in Pittsyu. The most mysterious thing that had happened in Pittsyu so far was the day the mailman wore his underwear on his head.

"You mean solve mysteries like the underwear hat?" asked Marissa.

"I do not," said Kathy. "I mean that we are going to do all the things that enlightened beings do. We are going to invisibly vibrate at a superior speed. We are going to meditate. We are going to help the seekers find that which they seek. We will be gurus. I put a sign up on the clubhouse that reads: *Om* Sweet *Om.* Enlightened Spiritual Beings. Mysteries Solved. One dollar."

"When are we going to find time for this?" asked Marissa.

"After school," said Kathy.

"Ah," said Marissa.

"That's good, very good," said Kathy, whipping out the notebook she always kept in her back pocket. *Say* Ah *a lot,* she wrote, *sounds wise.*

Illustrations: Lindy Burnett



The very next day as the girls sat in the damp and chilly clubhouse, they got their first customer.

"Let me do the talking," said Kathy, who was two years older and milked it for all it was worth. "You just sit there and say *Ah* from time to time."

"Right," said Marissa, who accepted the fact that she was lagging a bit behind her sister, enlightenment-wise.

"Hellooooo," said Kathy, waving her arms around in a spiritually welcoming manner. "What can we do for you?"

It was Mrs. Brady, the fourth grade teacher at Pittsyu Elementary. Because she was a teacher, Kathy offered her a chair instead of the cushions she had put down on the floor for clients.

"Hello, girls," said Mrs. Brady sadly. "I was walking home and I saw your sign. As it happens, I came upon a mystery that needed solving today. Quite a coincidence."

"There are no coincidences," said Kathy.

"Ah," said Marissa.

"No, thank you, dear," said Mrs. Brady, politely refusing the cookie from the somewhat sodden plate that Marissa offered her. The clubhouse leaked. "As you know, tomorrow is Valentine's Day and I'm afraid a most unfortunate thing has occurred. I collected everyone's valentines at recess to distribute in the students' valentine boxes after school. But when the bell rang and I went to fetch them, they were gone."

"Missing!" said Kathy, closing her eyes and putting a hand to her forehead.

"You can see that?" said Mrs. Brady, amazed.

"I see everything," said Kathy. Suddenly she

opened her eyes. "We will solve your mystery for you. Of course we intended to solve the Great Mysteries, but I suppose we can warm up on a few small ones. Payment in advance."

"Naturally," said Mrs. Brady, opening her purse. "Oh, dear, all I have are twenties. No change at all. I don't suppose you'd trust me to pay you tomorrow?"

Kathy put her fingertips together and chanted *Om.* She was not interested in the whining and puling of clients.

Mrs. Brady rolled her eyes and wrote a check for a dollar.

"Now," said Kathy, pocketing the check. "I think the first thing to do is return to the scene of the crime."

"Go back to the school?" said Mrs. Brady. "I assure you, I searched the classroom quite thoroughly."

"But did you search it with your inner being?" asked Kathy.

"Well, my inner being, generally speaking, comes along with my outer being," said Mrs. Brady.

"We will solve your mystery for you. Payment in advance."

"You don't want to leave your inner being outside where it might get wet," agreed Marissa, who was nothing if not agreeable.

"I thought I told you to only say *Ah,"* hissed Kathy. Little sisters!

"Ah," said Marissa, and they trooped over to the school.

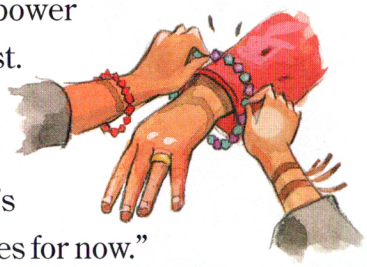
Mrs. Brady opened the door. Kathy put her hand on her forehead and walked three times around the room chanting *Om* and then sat down on the floor with her eyes closed.

"Do you see where the valentines have gone?" asked Mrs. Brady finally when she thought Kathy had perhaps fallen asleep.

"Mrs. Brady, what are you *really* seeking?" Kathy asked.

"The valentines?" said Mrs. Brady.

"Oneness with the universe," corrected Kathy gently, slipping some power beads onto Mrs. Brady's wrist.



"Well, eventually perhaps," said Mrs. Brady, who was an open-minded woman, "but let's concentrate on those valentines for now."

Kathy nodded. "Let us meditate. Sit!"

Marissa sat cross-legged on the floor. Kathy gestured for Mrs. Brady to do the same. They were quiet for ten minutes. "Are you feeling that oneness yet?" Kathy asked finally. Mrs. Brady confessed that she was too worried about the valentines to feel much of anything.

"Ah, you see, life's little problems get in the way of our spiritual harmony," said Kathy.

"And tonight is Mr. Brady's birthday!" said Mrs. Brady.

Kathy looked at her. She had no idea what this had to do with anything. "Have you ever wondered why dogs are so quiet?"

Mrs. Brady shook her head.

"It is because they are meditating. Dogs are very spiritually advanced. Our dog, Spacey, is completely one with the universe. Maybe you're feeling a twoness or threeness?" she asked hopefully.

"I am feeling like I need to find the valentines so I can go home and make Mr. Brady a cake!"



said Mrs. Brady, getting rather testy. She did not like to be compared unfavorably to Kathy's dog.

"I see…" began Marissa.

"Did I not tell you to say nothing but *Ah!*" snapped Kathy. Then she turned to counsel Mrs. Brady in gentle tones, "Don't you see how Valentine's Day, birthdays, all days are just passing?"

"I see…" began Marissa.

"AH! AH! AH!" corrected Kathy.

"Yes, time is passing, that's why I have to find those valentines…" began Mrs. Brady.

"Think of lovely rivers rushing," urged Kathy, who thought they were finally getting somewhere.

"I see…" began Marissa.

"Stop interrupting!" yelled Kathy, standing up. "Can't you see we're having a little harmony here!"

"But there are the valentines!" protested Marissa. "They're under that coat on the cloakroom floor. I can just see the tip of one from here."

Mrs. Brady ran to see. "Oh, that Billy Smith! Always into mischief. He's hidden them on the floor under his messy pile of boots and coats. I didn't even think to look there." Mrs. Brady picked up the valentines and quickly began to distribute them.

"Let us not fixate on those valentines," said Kathy, alarmed. "We came to enlighten you. We want to solve the *big* mysteries. We seek to be so evolved that we are transparent."

"Yes, yes, dear," said Mrs. Brady, shooing the girls out and locking the classroom door behind them. "I'm sure you're so evolved that you're hardly there."

"We're the Hardly There Girls," said Marissa, giggling. "You know, instead of the Hardy Boys."

Kathy was not amused. Perhaps she belonged in the fourth dimension with wiser beings.

"Now, off we go. It must be dinner time for you, and I have to get home," said Mrs. Brady, getting all brisk. She walked with them to their house, gave back the power beads, and then went on her way.

"Are you feeling that oneness with the universe?" called Kathy hopefully after Mrs. Brady's departing form.

Oddly enough, thought Mrs. Brady, she rather was.

At dinner that night Marissa stared at Mr. Spelling. She stared at Mrs. Spelling. She stared at their faithful dog, Spacey. Kathy had explained that nobody in the family was very enlightened except herself and Spacey. Kathy was always getting things before she did, thought Marissa miserably. First it was her bronze swim medal and now enlightenment! She sighed deeply.

"Whatever is the matter?" asked Mr. Spelling, suddenly putting down his fork.

"Only Kathy and Spacey vibrate very fast in this family," said Marissa depressedly, trying to pick up peas with her dessert fork.

"As family failings go, I suggest you have been blessed," said her father as he resumed eating.

"How many times do I have to tell you? Use the outside eating utensil and work your way in," said her mother, who thought that it didn't matter how fast you vibrated as long as you knew which fork to use. Then her parents got up to cut themselves pieces of cake and eat in front of the TV.

"I love them dearly even though in their last life they were tent caterpillars," said Kathy, looking at them fondly.

"How do you know this stuff?" said Marissa.

"You must do the dishes alone tonight," said Kathy suddenly. "There's good karma in the bathtub." And she went off to take an aromatherapy bubble bath.

The next day word had spread of the girls' detective abilities, and after school the clubhouse was swamped with customers. Marissa thought Kathy would be pleased, but she was not. She rejected the long line of customers one by one.

"Find my squirt gun! Solve the mystery of the failing science tests. Help me find out what my parents are whispering about in the next room. Not one seeker of Truth!" said Kathy in disgust when the last customer had been shooed out the door.

"Those were a lot of dollars we let go there," said Marissa, watching the children shuffle away. Suddenly a head popped through the window.



"Now what?" said Kathy sharply to the little girl who stood there. "I suppose you want me to find your dolly?"

"No, I want you to help me find Peace and Contentment," said the little girl.

"Ah!" said Marissa.

"And oneness with the universe?" asked Kathy.

"No, just Peace and Contentment," said the little girl.

"Well, close enough," said Kathy. "Cash on the line."

The girl handed over the dollar and introduced herself as Sally Wainwright.

"Of course you are," said Kathy enigmatically. "Now, shall we meditate? Or perhaps do a little chanting. Have you per chance a bongo drum?"

"Bongo drum? I thought we would search the neighborhood," said Sally.

"Peace and Contentment are not found in the neighborhood," said Kathy gently. "They are only found within. But we will indulge you. Put your hand on your forehead and say *Om.*" After they had trooped around for a while, Kathy turned again to Sally. "Are you feeling that oneness yet?"

"I had heard your methods were unusual," said Sally.

"What do you mean?" asked Kathy. "All good gurus chant *Om* when they look for oneness with the universe."

"Peace! There's Peace!" yelled Sally.

"Ah!" said Marissa.

"And Contentment!" cried Sally.

"Oh! Oh!" said Kathy, forgetting she was a wise guru and skipping in place. "Our first enlightenment!"

A black cat and a white cat shot from beneath the bushes and attached themselves to Sally, rubbing against her legs and mewing.

"Be gone, cats!" said Kathy, waving her arms. "You are interrupting our harmony!"

"What are you talking about?" said Sally, picking up the black cat and rubbing her cheek against it. "This is Peace. And that one," she nodded to the white cat, "is Contentment."

"Peace and Contentment are a couple of *cats?*" said Kathy in steely tones.

"Be gone, cats! You are interrupting our harmony!"

"Why, yes, I thought you knew that. That's why I hired you. They disappeared this morning."

"No one in this town gives a hoot about their spiritual being," said Kathy, and she sulked all the way home. Marissa carried one of the cats. As Sally turned in at her own driveway, Kathy



called, ever hopeful, "But aren't you feeling a little oneness too?"

And oddly enough, thought Sally, she was.

That night after Mrs. Spelling had explained about the wonders of the oyster fork, Kathy said she thought they should quit the guru business because no one understood what they did.

"Well, maybe," said Marissa, "at first…" She felt tentative about offering this bold suggestion to such an enlightened being. "We could just find their cats, find their valentines and squirt guns."

She put up a restraining hand as Kathy opened her mouth to protest. "And then, as we help them with these boring normal-type problems, we could inject a little enlightenment."

"A hint of *Om?*" said Kathy, brightening.

"A smidgen of oneness," agreed Marissa.

A new sign went up the next day: The Hardly There Girls. No Mystery Too Mundane. No Problem Too Small.

By the time the rainy season was over, the girls had found endless lost pets and toys and even helped put together—from mysterious instructions—a Happy Meal toy.

"We never juiced a single thing," grumbled Kathy.

"I'm sure you can be enlightened without a juicer," said Marissa. "And besides, we found Peace and Contentment." ✦



Meet the Author

Polly Horvath



I spent a lot of time at the Kalamazoo Public Library when I was 10. Although no books ever fell on my head, inspiring enlightenment, there were books that affected me. (O.K., occasionally I used them to build paper doll houses, but that was *very* occasionally. All right, and sometimes I would see how many I could balance on my head.) But mostly I read.



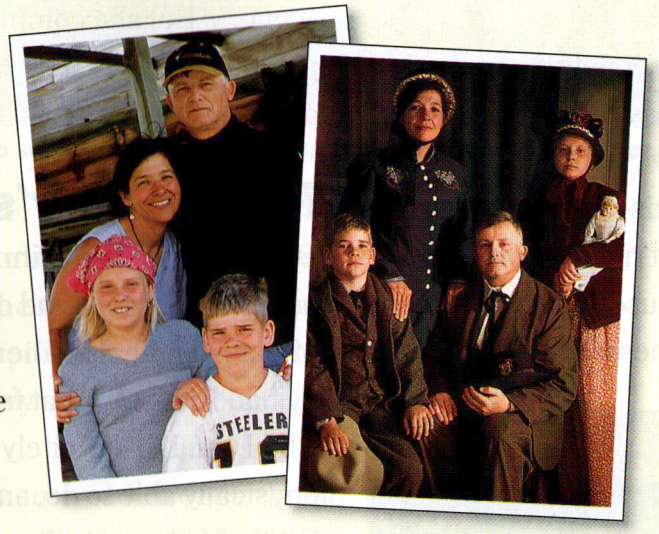
Erinn hauled heavy buckets of water through the snow—which fell in June!

The New FRONTIER

A girl and her family give up modern conveniences and try to live like 1880s pioneers—all for a new TV series that's part *Little House on the Prairie,* part *Survivor!*

"Out here, I don't wake up and wonder what to wear," says Erinn P., age 12. "I glance in my trunk and realize there's only one thing I can wear. The worst part is, it's a dress!"

Early last summer, Erinn, her family, and two other families moved to the Montana wilderness to live like 1883 pioneers for PBS's upcoming show *Frontier House.* For five months, the families traded in schoolwork and jobs and all other modern activities for the life of old-fashioned homesteaders.



Erinn and her family traded in all their modern clothes for the latest frontier fashions.

To travel back in time, Erinn moved from her comfy Tennessee home to a small, drafty cabin in the mountains. She gave up her favorite black platform boots and bell-bottom jeans for petticoats, hand-sewn skirts, and two pairs of stiff leather shoes. She stopped making trips to the grocery store and learned how to milk a cow instead. "Back home," Erinn explains, "I wouldn't be riding a horse, I'd be riding a four-wheeler. Here, pop music has been replaced by the cow choir. Mountain Dew is now spring water."

As much as possible, the TV pioneers survived using only what would have been available on the frontier in 1883. That meant no phone calls, no fast food, and no toilet paper! The pioneers could communicate with the outside world only through handwritten letters dropped off and picked up at a country store *ten miles* from their homes.

A week before she left the frontier, Erinn told us just how she liked pioneer life.

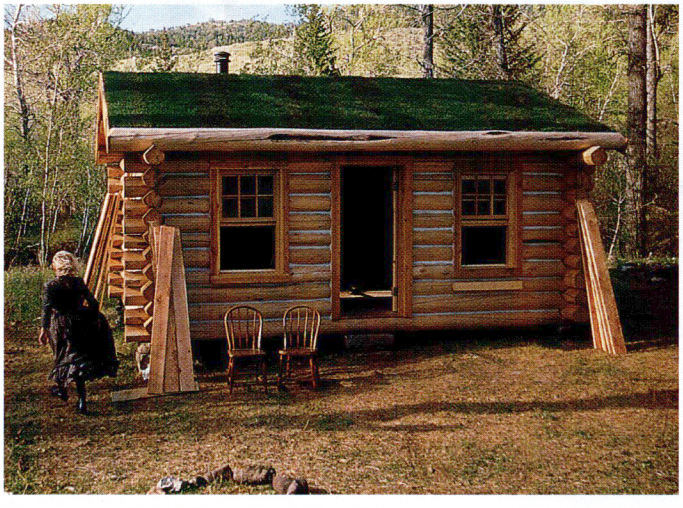
Photos: © Audrey Hall/Thirteen/WNET New York

Getting Settled



In the late 1800s, thousands of pioneers made the long journey from the East and Midwest to Montana. Erinn, her mom Karen, her stepdad Mark, her brother Logan, and the other TV pioneers traveled to their new homes from a nearby town. Their trip lasted only two days, but it was tough. Like many of the original homesteaders, they came to the frontier in wagons pulled by horses. All their supplies for the first few weeks of life on the frontier had to fit into those wagons or be carried by hand. "It was hard because I walked three-fourths of the way," says Erinn. During the trek, the horses pulling one family's wagon went wild! No one was hurt, but the TV homesteaders got their first real taste of pioneer life.

Finally, Erinn moved into her new home—a tiny one-room log cabin. The family had no modern furniture or appliances. They cooked on a woodstove and slept on feather beds—or on the floor. Eventually, though, Erinn felt right at home. "Now I can't leave this behind because it seems like my house, like what I felt in Tennessee," she explains.



They weren't kidding about the *little* house on the prairie.



Even during snowstorms, frontier kids had to do their chores.

Erinn and the other pioneers did get to use one twenty-first-century tool—a video camera. The homesteaders shared their secret thoughts with cameras, normally hidden away in their cabins, whenever they needed to clear their minds. At first, Erinn raved about the beautiful Montana scenery. But she complained, too. Just like real pioneers, the *Frontier House* families didn't always get along.

All in a Day's Work

On any given day, Erinn milked cows, churned butter, kneaded bread dough, hauled buckets of water, and helped her mom do the laundry—by hand! "I know that frontier life has changed who I am. I'm definitely stronger. I know what I'm physically able to do, and I'll try to do it," says Erinn. "At home in Tennessee, cleaning my room was a huge chore and I hated doing it, but that's nothing compared to life out here."

Erinn quickly learned that frontier chores are hard to do in the clothes frontier girls would have worn. Erinn's corset kept her from handling animals. "You can't bend over in a corset," Erinn explains. "People wouldn't have worn one for any of the work around here." Erinn also tore her

Erinn rode her horse, Snowball, to school. Erinn loved spending time with Snowball more than anything else about frontier life.

skirts climbing through barbed wire fences. Soon she stopped wearing dresses and skirts while she was working and wore overalls instead. She and her mom decided pioneer women just might have worn pants when they were doing heavy or dirty work outside, especially if no one but family was around.

Erinn loved her mom's homemade frontier bread, and she got used to eating eggs—laid by her own chickens—all the time. But she really missed sweets. She longed for soda and Hershey bars. On the frontier, Erinn got to eat one piece of candy about once a week. She always let that candy melt slowly in her mouth. She never chomped it! Though ice cream was around in 1883, Erinn ate it only once the whole time she was on the frontier. Erinn's mom did buy an ice cream maker from the frontier store, but the family never had the chance to use it. "We could only make ice cream when it snowed," says Erinn, "and who wants ice cream when you're ice yourself?"



On the frontier, Erinn learned to knit, play guitar, bake homemade bread, and much, much more.

A Learning Experience

Erinn and the five other kids on the frontier didn't get to skip school. They went to their very own one-room schoolhouse. They kept up with their modern-day studies, but they also had lessons in 1880s history and geography, and they even wrote on slates.

Erinn is sure, though, that she learned a lot more just living on the frontier than she could possibly learn in school. For one thing, she became an animal expert. She now knows that cows give less milk if they aren't milked on time, that bears don't like loud noises, and that rattlesnake is *not* good to eat. Before moving to the frontier, Erinn had ridden a horse only a few times. Now she can ride bareback. When she gets home to Tennessee, she wants to raise her own horse. "I was planning on being a fashion designer when I grow up," says Erinn, "but now I'm thinking about being a rancher."

Erinn's frontier experience taught her a lot about life in general, too. "I've learned to be more patient. You have to be patient with the animals," she explains. "And I've learned that absence does make the heart grow fonder." Erinn badly missed her friends and her dad and grandparents. "If my friends and family were out here, I could live this life forever," Erinn says. "I'll cry when I leave my cabin. I'll miss all the 1883 things I've grown to love. But then I'll cry for happiness when I get back to Tennessee."

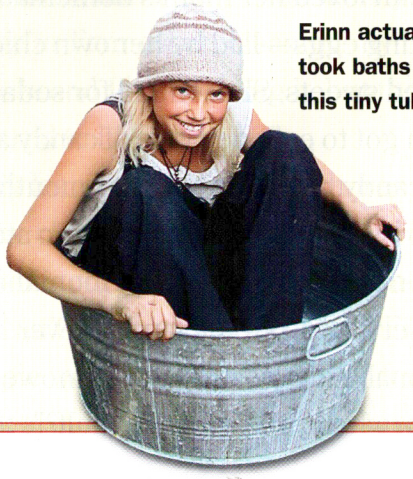


Don't forget to look for Erinn and *Frontier House* on your local PBS station starting May 1. Until then, check out pbs.org/wnet/frontierhouse to learn more about Erinn and the other pioneers.

Frontier Fantasy

According to Erinn, life as a homesteader is *not* like it looks on TV.

On *Little House on the Prairie*...	At Erinn's frontier home...
▪ the kids are always clean.	▪ the kids are usually really dirty! Erinn and Logan took a bath about once a week.
▪ the biscuits are never burnt.	▪ if the biscuits are burnt, you eat them anyway.
▪ churning butter seems like fun.	▪ churning butter takes forever!
▪ the kids never complain about their chores.	▪ the kids are too exhausted to complain about their chores.



Erinn actually took baths in this tiny tub!

What's Your PIONEER POTENTIAL?



Would *you* be at home on the range? Or are you a modern city girl? Take this quiz to find out if you'd fit in on the frontier.

1 When Mom announces, "We're taking a road-trip vacation," you…

a. look forward to some quality family time.

b. make sure to grab some extra batteries for your Walkman—you definitely want to drown out your little brother's voice.

c. pack everything you own into a huge suitcase, hoping there'll be no room left in the car for your brother!

2 If you had no way to take a shower every day, you'd…

a. learn to love your trendy new grunge look.

b. leave the house only when you had to—and then wear a disguise.

c. never leave the house, period.

3 You're camping and you need to build a fire. Trees are scarce, so you…

a. look for dried animal dung. It burns great!

b. burn the two artificial logs you brought, then shiver when the fire goes out.

c. head for McDonald's and a motel.



Collecting buffalo chips for the fire

4 You like to be around animals…

a. all the time! You love your pets, and you're crazy about wild animals.

b. once in a while. You enjoy pet-sitting for your neighbor's cat a few times a year.

c. only when they're on TV!

5 It's great to have a lot of clothes, but you could get by with…

a. one or two really useful outfits.

b. a different outfit for every day of the week.

c. no less than what's already in your closet. In fact, you'd love to go shopping right now.

Answers

Mostly A's
You're adaptable, and you appreciate hard work and the great outdoors. You're ready for life on the frontier!

Mostly B's
You're fond of the things that make modern life comfortable. You might like to visit the frontier, but you wouldn't want to live there.

Mostly C's
You live in the modern world, and you like it that way! But you can still enjoy frontier life by watching *Frontier House* on TV.

Cabin photo: © Hulton/Archive; wagons photo: Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, call number X-11929; wheelbarrow photo: © Bettmann/CORBIS

The Giggle Gang

Winter Fun-derland!

The Giggle Gang girls are sledding their way through winter vacation. The girls in each row or column—across, up, down, and diagonal—have something in common. Can you figure out how the girls in each group are alike?



All answers on page 42.

What did the puppy do when she won first place at the dog show? She took a bow-wow.

Lori B.
Age 11, Virginia

What do you get when you cross a kangaroo and a snake? A jump rope!

Lauren B.
Age 12, Illinois

What do horses put on their sandwiches? Mayo-neighs.

Stephanie C.
Age 10, New Jersey

What was the whale's favorite kind of sandwich?

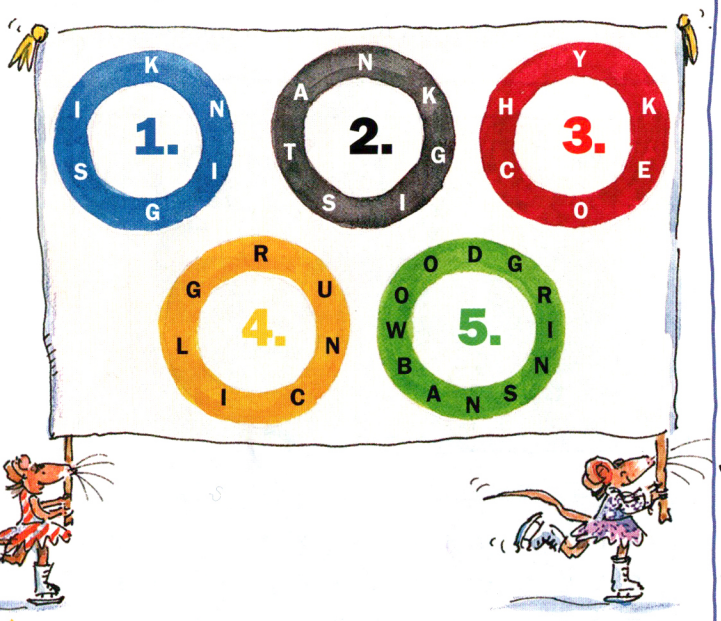
Pizza Predicament

Ashleigh has seven friends at her sleepover. Her mom ordered a pizza for everyone. Making only four cuts, how can Ashleigh divide the pizza so that everyone—including Mom—gets one piece?



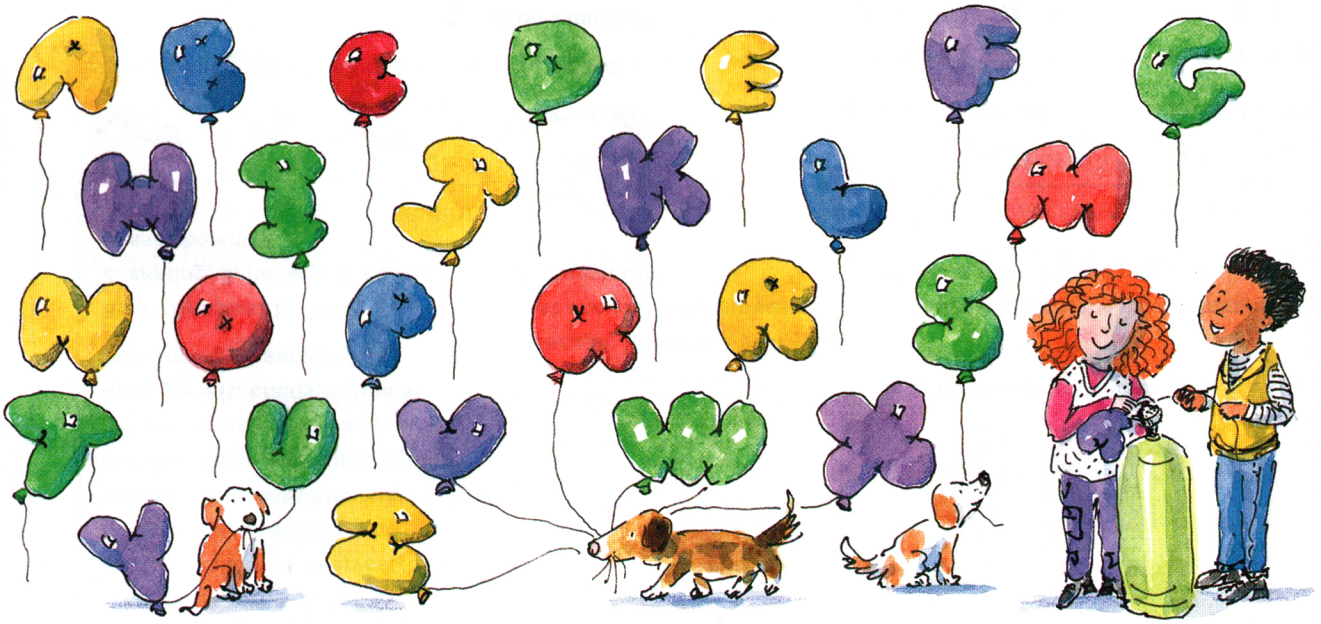
Brain Olympics

The scrambled letters in these Olympic rings contain the names of five winter sports. What are they?



Loony Balloons

Emily S., 14, of Washington sent in this bubbly balloon letter art. Use Emily's alphabet to make your party invites really pop!



Illustrations: Paul Meisel Pizza Predicament: Sherry Timberman

Reven B. Age 14, Minnesota
What has 88 keys but not a single door? A piano.

Marian C. Age 11, Massachusetts
What did the zero say to the eight? "Nice belt!"

Tynelle G. Age 10, Virginia
A bee flying backward!

Peanut butter and jellyfish. Abby S. Age 10, Washington

What game do roosters like to play the most? Crow-quet! Hannah C. Age 9, Texas

What goes "Zzub, zzub?"

The Giggle Gang

AG 2002!

Search this crazy calendar page for the names of the days and months. Once you've found them all, look for a secret message.

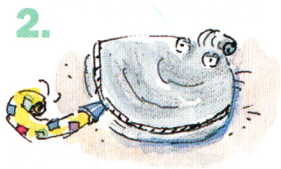


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E	C	B	Y	D	E	Y	A	R	D	D	A	R	Y	O
B	E	U	M	N	R	B	R	F	S	D	S	R	I	E
O	M	S	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	U	E	C	L
T	B	T	O	S	T	N	E	U	U	I	N	Y	U	H
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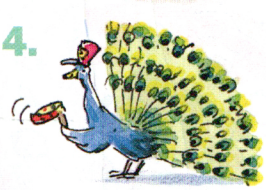
Pet Promises

You'll need to be as sly as a fox to match these cute creatures with their funny New Year's resolutions.













A. This year, I'm going to take it easy.

B. I resolve to be more humble.

C. I'll try to be less curious—for my own safety!

D. I'm going to keep my happy outlook on life.

E. I'm finally going to stop trying to learn new tricks—I just can't do it!

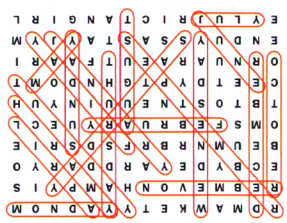
F. I resolve to forgive and forget... especially to forget!

Answer Box

Brain Olympics: 1. skiing, 2. skating, 3. hockey, 4. curling, 5. snowboarding

Winter Fun-derland!: Top row, vests; middle row, scarves; bottom row, sweaters; left column, sleds with runners; middle column, earmuffs; right column, toboggans; diagonal from top left, braids; diagonal from top right, sunglasses.

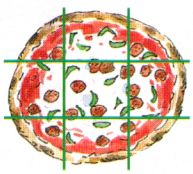
Message: Make this year your best one yet! Your friends at *American Girl*



AG 2002!

Pet Promises: 1. E, 2. D, 3. F, 4. B, 5. A, 6. C

The buzzword, pulling, appears on both page 29 and page 48.



Pizza Predicament:

Why is a bowling alley the quietest place on Earth? Because you can hear a pin drop. Alicia M., Age 13, California

How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend? He gave her a ring. Priscilla B., Age 11, Georgia

Why is the bubble leave the bathtub? He was looking for his pop! Kristen D., Age 12, North Carolina

What do bakers sleep on? Cookie sheets. Catherine R., Age 10, Texas

Why didn't the animals that lived on Noah's Ark ever play cards? Because Noah was always sitting on the deck! Kelly W., Age 12, Maryland

Who's That Girl?

Here's an American girl of yesterday. Read the clues about her and guess who she is now.



Clue 1

Valentine's Day was special in my elementary school. I made my cards with lots of glitter and sparkles, and I always added a fabulous finishing touch—a yummy chocolate treat!



Clue 2

As a girl, all sports interested me, from ballet to waterskiing to rock climbing. At five, I started gymnastics, and two years later a friend asked me to go ice-skating. I absolutely loved it!



Clue 3

In fifth grade, artists came to my school to teach us how to paint in different styles. After the lessons, we got to do the art ourselves, and I grew to really love it.



Clue 4

My mother is Ukrainian, and my whole life, I've been learning to speak Russian. I've even traveled to Russia, and I was quite surprised when one quick, tasty meal cost me just six cents!



Here I am at age 10.



Clue 5

For as long as I can remember, I've loved designing glittery clothes and jewelry. I even made and wore one of my favorite outfits when I was 14—an ice-blue skating dress with beautiful beading.

Take a guess!

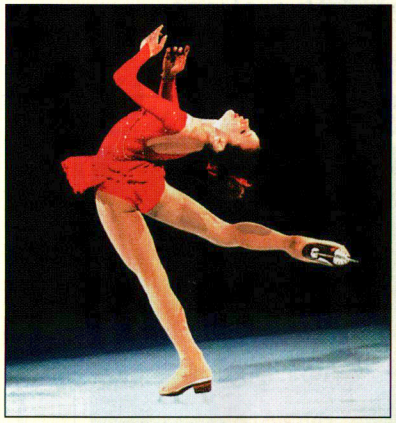
When this American girl grew up, she became:

- ☑ a figure skater
- ☐ an artist
- ☐ a fashion designer
- ☐ a chef

Turn the page and find out if you're right!

Illustrations: Laurie Caple

She's Sasha Cohen



Sasha at the U.S. Championships

A glittering Olympic medal would be the perfect prize for a girl who loves sparkle! And that's what figure skater Sasha Cohen is aiming for this February at the Olympics. "I'm working really hard for that," says Sasha about her dreams for the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. "But what I really want is to do my best."

Just 17 years old, Sasha's been ice-skating for ten years. Her early training in ballet and gymnastics has made Sasha one of the most elegant skaters on the ice today. Known for her artistic style, Sasha's even created a few new moves—the Sasha Spiral, the Sasha Skid, and the Sasha Curl!



At age 13, Sasha decided to make skating a serious priority. Just two years later, in her very first senior-level competition, Sasha won a silver medal—and received a standing ovation!

Determined and focused, Sasha had a difficult time when injuries to her foot and back kept her away from major competitions last year. "But I knew it was important to let myself heal," she recalls. "And I came back strong."

When she's not training, Sasha's love of art and design help her create jewelry and many of her skating costumes. One day, she even hopes to launch her own fashion company. "I really enjoy designing!" she says confidently.

But for now, skating is still the best. "I have lots to accomplish out there, so I try not to lose my focus," Sasha says, "and I enjoy myself!" ★

Sasha's advice to American girls:

"There are positive things and negative things in life, and the negatives just make the positives that much better!"

Sasha Cohen

You can write to Sasha at:
Ice Chalet
9 Journey
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

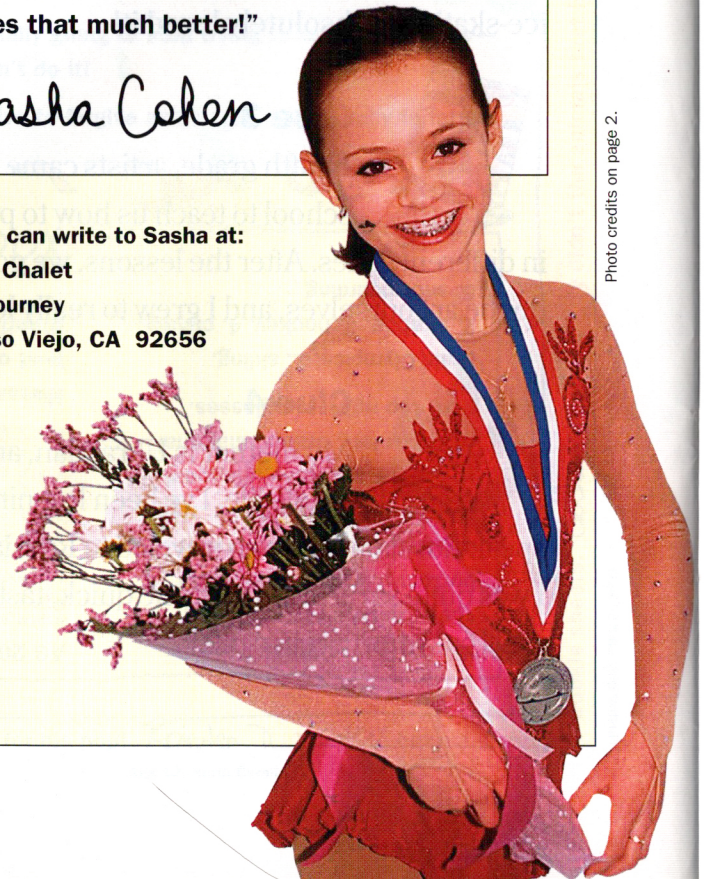


Photo credits on page 2.

For luck, Sasha wears a necklace her grandmother gave her. It holds a charm with Sasha's name on the front and a lucky star on the back.

Illustrations: Susan McAliley

A

The Whole You

Test Your Skin Smarts

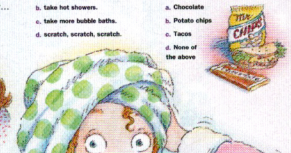
What should you know so you'll have a healthy glow? Take this quiz and find out!

1. You've been noticing some weird lumps and bumps around your hairline lately. They could be caused by…
a. your shampoo.
b. your bangs.
c. your hair gel.

2. You're sick of being called Freckle Face! To reduce your freckles, you…
a. stay out of the sun.
b. buy Freckle-Free Miracle Cream.
c. rub your cheeks with a lemon slice every day.

3. Your skin's been awfully dry and itchy lately. You…
a. drink more water.
b. take hot showers.
c. take more bubble baths.
d. scratch, scratch, scratch.

4. Oh, no! Pimples are popping up all over! Which of these foods should you avoid?
a. Chocolate
b. Potato chips
c. Tacos
d. None of the above





Imagine it's your birthday, but no one's hanging balloons or baking a cake. No one's giving you presents, and not a single person even wishes you a happy birthday. That's just what happened to many kids at the homeless shelter in Washington state where Michaela R., 14, volunteers. Parents struggling to find work and a place to live have no money to spend on birthday parties and gifts for their kids.

Almost two years ago, Michaela decided to help solve this problem. So she started throwing birthday parties for children at the shelter. At first, she paid for the parties with her own money. Now she receives donations from people who want to help support her project, called Secret Birthday Pal.

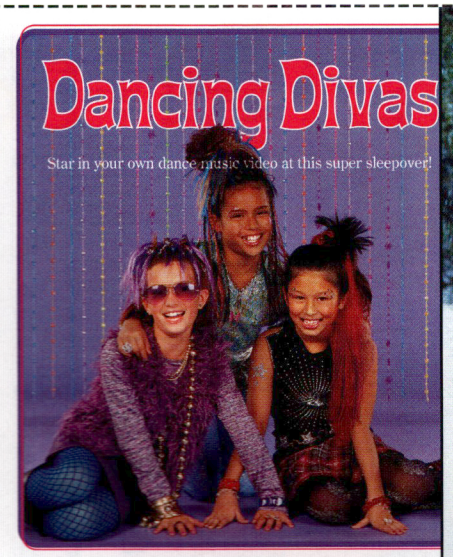
Before each party, Michaela finds out what theme the birthday girl or boy might like. Then she buys decorations, a cake, and a gift. She doesn't go to the celebration, though. "I want it to seem like the mom is throwing the party," she explains. "And some strangers the kids don't know."

Secret Birthday Pal has been such a big success that Michaela plans to bring her program to other shelters in her area. "Secret Birthday Pal may not help people find a job or a place to live," she says, "but it really does make a family a day!"

So you have a friend who wishes on a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant, and AG will donate $500 to her cause.

American Girl

B



American Girl

The New

FRONTIER

A girl and her family give up modern conveniences and try to live like 1880s pioneers—all for a new TV series that's part *Little House on the Prairie*, part *Survivor!*

"Out here, I don't wake up and wonder what to wear," says Erinn P., age 12. "I glance in my trunk and realize there's only one thing I can wear. The worst part is, it's a dress!"

Early last summer, Erinn, her family, and two other families moved to the Montana wilderness to live like 1883 pioneers for PBS's upcoming show *Frontier House*. For five months, the families traded in schoolwork and jobs and all other modern activities for the life of old-fashioned homesteaders.



Erinn and her family traded in all their modern clothes for the latest frontier fashions.

To travel back in time, Erinn moved from her comfy Tennessee home to a small, drafty cabin in the mountains. She gave up her favorite black platform boots and bell-bottom jeans for petticoats, hand-sewn skirts, and two pairs of stiff leather shoes. She stopped making trips to the grocery store and learned how to milk a cow instead. "Back home," Erinn explains, "I wouldn't be riding a horse, I'd be riding a four-wheeler. Here, pop music has been replaced by the cow choir. Mountain Dew is now spring water."

As much as possible, the TV pioneers survived using only what would have been available on the frontier in 1883. That meant no phone calls, no fast food, and no toilet paper! The pioneers could communicate with the outside world only through handwritten letters dropped off and picked up at a country store *ten miles* from their homes.

A week before she left the frontier, Erinn told us just how she liked pioneer life.

Photos © Kathy Hall/Thirteen/WNET New York

January/February 2002

C

Money Matters

Do you shop till you drop, or do you think it's nifty to be thrifty? Take our quiz and find out if you're a big spender or a savvy saver.

Quiz

Imagine you received **$100** over the holidays. How would you spend it? Answer these questions, and keep track of how much you spend.

1. You and a buddy want to see a movie. You…
a. each buy evening tickets plus popcorn, soda, and Junior Mints. $12
b. go to a matinee and split a bag of popcorn. $7
c. rent a video and watch it at home with microwave popcorn. $4



2. You want to give your best friend a valentine treat. You…
a. buy her that CD she's been wanting. $16
b. buy her a card and bead her an ankle bracelet. $6
c. draw a comic strip about the two of you, and hide it in her locker with her favorite candy bar. 50 cents



3. You can't decide between two pairs of earrings. You…
a. buy them both. $20
b. do "eenie, meenie, miney, mo," then pick the winning pair. $10
c. buy some cute toe socks instead. $5



The Urge to Splurge

Readers tell about the most money they ever spent—and how it made them feel



"I saved $152 to buy gifts and souvenirs in England. It felt good not asking my mom for money all the time." Briana S., age 13

"I got a portable CD player for $70. Buying it made me feel very grown-up and satisfied." Karen B., age 11

American Girl

Days of rain, a weird book, and some missing valentines set Kathy on the road to enlightenment. But will she find peace and contentment?

In wintertime in Oregon the rain never stops. It drums against the roofs and hammers the ground. In the long gray rains of February, half the population goes quietly crazy. The other half are kind of noisy about it.

Kathy Spelling (11) and her sister, Marissa Spelling (9), lived in Pittsyu, Oregon, where it had been raining for thirty-three days.

Kathy was in the library waiting for her mother in the non-fiction section when someone accidentally knocked a book off the shelf and onto her head. She picked it up to replace it and read the title: MARY JO HEPKIN'S GUIDE TO ENLIGHTENMENT AND OTHER GOOD STUFF.

Hmmm, she thought, opening it and skimming the paragraphs. *My goodness*, she thought, as she read on. *What in the world have we here*, she thought, as she ended Chapter Two. When Kathy came to Chapter Four: How to Know if You're an Enlightened Being in Disguise, she knew that February was going to be an interesting month after all.



"Marissa!" called Kathy when she got home. "Get out the essential oils and crystals. Dig up those old yin-yang candles, flower essences, and mood rings. We need some power beads, some ginseng, and, oh yeah, I think we're gonna need a juicer."

"Uh oh," said Marissa, who was used to Kathy's sudden enthusiasms. "A juicer? But there's juice in the fridge."

"Never mind that," said Kathy hastily. "We're enlightened beings and we're going to spread enlightenment around Pittsyu and solve its Great Mysteries."

Marissa didn't know what enlightenment meant and this was the first she had heard of any great mysteries in Pittsyu. The most mysterious thing that had happened in Pittsyu so far was the day the mailman wore his underwear on his head.

"You mean solve mysteries like the underwear hat?" asked Marissa.

"I do not," said Kathy. "I mean that we are going to do all the things that enlightened beings do. We are going to invisibly vibrate at a superior speed. We are going to meditate. We are going to help the seekers find that which they seek. We will be gurus. I put a sign up on the clubhouse that reads: *Om* Sweet *Om*. Enlightened Spiritual Beings. Mysteries Solved. One dollar."

"When are we going to find time for this?" asked Marissa.

"After school," said Kathy.

"Ah," said Marissa.

"That's good, very good," said Kathy, whipping out the notebook she always kept in her back pocket. *Say* Ah *a lot*, she wrote, *sounds wise.*

January/February 2002

D

Craft

Pop-Up Valentines!

Fold, cut, glue, and decorate—give a card that you create!

YOU WILL NEED
- One 8-by-6-inch sheet of cardstock
- 2 pencils
- One 8-by-6-inch sheet of scrapbook or colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick or glue pen
- AG stickers for decoration

Optional for decorating cards:
- Fabric applique
- Heart-shaped hole punch

Makes one 4-by-6-inch pop-up card



1 Fold cardstock in half lengthwise. This will be the inside of your card. Use side of pencil to smooth folded edge.



2 Lay pencil down on center of fold. Use other pencil to trace a line about 1 inch long on either side.



3 Repeat step 2 on either side of the center marks, centering the pencil each time. Cut along pencil lines.



4 Open card and fold strips the opposite way, as shown.



5 Fold other sheet of paper in half. Apply glue to back of inside card and attach to outside card, as shown.



6 Press AG stickers onto colored papers. Cut around stickers, leaving a paper border. Glue to pop-up strips.





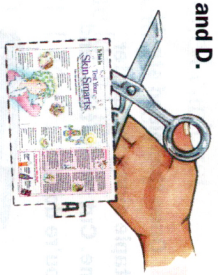
American Girl

January/February 2002

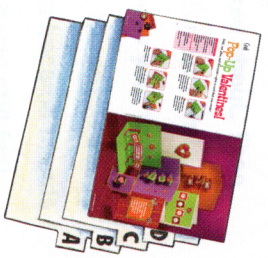
Mini Mag

With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl*. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1 Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.



2 Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.



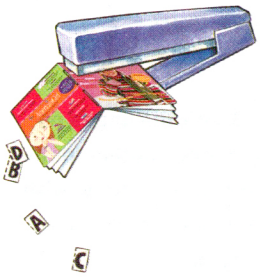
Continued

Mini Mag

3 Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the magazine should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.



4 Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!



HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

I have a friend who doesn't seem to want to hang around me anymore. We used to play together, but now she wants to hang around all the other girls. What should I do?

friend loss

Call and ask this girl if she wants to get together sometime. If she agrees, great! But if she says "No, thanks," it means you've grown apart. It really hurts when a friend doesn't want to be close anymore, but it's not your fault. Spend more time with your other friends, and your heart will feel a lot less empty.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

I'm kind of a slow runner. I want to be fast and athletic like most of the kids at school. What should I do?

Slowpoke

There's no secret way to get fit—just start moving. Even little things will help. Can you walk to school instead of getting a ride? Take the stairs instead of the escalator. Join in active playground games like kickball or soccer, or



invite Mom along for a jog around the block. You could also join a group like Girls on the Run. For info, check out girlsontherun.org. Remember, not everyone is cut out to be a sprinter. But as long as you practice, you *will* improve.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My sister is always reading my journal. My parents have told her to stop, but she won't. I tried to hide my journal, but I caught her looking for it! How can I keep my privacy?

Sick of Sis

It's tough to stop a snooping sister, so be smart. Get a new journal, and don't tell your sister about it. Do most of your writing in the new journal, and hide it well. But keep writing in your *old* journal, too, and leave it where she'll find it. Here's the catch: make sure what you write in the old journal is REALLY dull. Your secrets will be safe, and your sis may get so bored with your journal that she'll snoop elsewhere.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

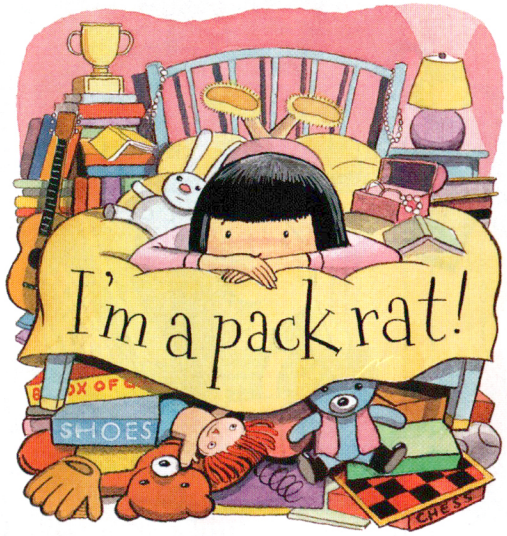
I get really worked up when I get mad at a friend. Even after the problem's gone I can't get rid of my bad feelings, so I let things bother me for a long time. I'm so hurt, I don't know how to forgive OR forget.

Grudge Holder

When you're furious, ask yourself: did my friend *mean* to hurt me? Chances are, she didn't. It helps to focus on the positive. Make a list of things you're mad about. Then for every item on the list, write down two nice things your friend has done. Look at the list and remember why you became friends in the first place. If you still feel bad, talk to an adult who gives good advice. Forgiving is hard, but it's really important. Anger is like a match; hold onto it too long, and *you're* the one who gets burned.

Illustrations: Scott Nash

MORE HELP!



Dear *American Girl*,

I'm a pack rat! I can't get rid of anything. I have stuffed animals from when I was born. There are 2 million things under my bed! Can you help me?

Super Saver

It's fun to save a few things from when you were little, but you can't keep *everything*. Divide your stuff into a "keep" pile, a "maybe" pile, and a "donate or toss" pile. Put the "maybe" pile into a box, close it, and put it out of sight. A month later, if you can think of anything you still want that you put in there—without looking in the box!—take it out and save it. Ask Mom to donate the rest. You won't even miss it!

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My friend wants to play the same thing every time she comes over. I've tried to suggest something else, but she gives me a sad puppy-dog face and begs until I finally give in.

Bored Bud

Next time your pal starts puling, offer to compromise. Say you'll do what she wants to do for an hour, but you get to pick something different after that. If she tries to change the plan when her time is up, say, "We did what you wanted, and now it's my turn to pick." Be nice, but be firm. If you still have problems, next time, plan to get together at the library or the park. Then you'll both have fun!

★

Dear *American Girl*,

I'm scared of the dark. I've tried listening to music, reading, and sometimes I even sleep with my sister, but nothing helps. What if something's in my closet?

Horrified in Hawaii

You *know* there's nothing in your closet, so why are you scared? Maybe it's because of what you do when it isn't dark. Are you reading ghastly ghost stories or watching alarming shows about aliens? Those images can stay in your imagination and creep you out for a long time, so stay away from that stuff. If you're still scared at night, try talking out loud to whatever you imagine is in your closet. Say, "Go away!" or "Get outta here!" or "Scram!" Once you hear how funny you sound, you'll feel more silly than scared.

★

Advice from You

"If you are playing sports and someone says you 'play like a girl,' tell them you take that as a compliment. Women are strong and energetic players. Don't be ashamed of being a girl—be proud!"

Miranda P.
Age 12, Massachusetts

Need advice? Got advice? Write:
Help!
AmericanGirl
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Shining Star

Imagine it's your birthday, but no one's hanging balloons or baking a cake. No one's giving you presents, and not a single person even wishes you a happy birthday. That's just what happened to many kids at the homeless shelter in Washington state where Michaela R., 14, volunteers. Parents struggling to find work and a place to live have no money to spend on birthday parties and gifts for their kids.

Almost two years ago, Michaela decided to help solve this problem. So she started planning birthday parties for children at the shelter. At first, she paid for the parties with her allowance. Now she receives donations from people who want to help support her project, called Secret Birthday Pal.

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Do you have a friend who shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and AG will donate $500 to her cause.

Photo: Scott Ellard

Rainy Day Fun

Games and tricks to brighten even the grayest days

Veg Out!

Find out how much you know about being vegetarian!

Fiction Contest Winner

Over 2,000 of you entered, but only one will win. Find out who!

AmericanGirl®

Coming up in the March/April issue

For lots more fun, visit americangirl.com! Make your own puzzles, and try our secret decoder!



Hairdos and Don'ts

Spring styles to try, plus the scoop on the latest hair products



Tricky Photos

You won't believe your eyes when you see these silly snapshots!

April Fools!

Clever pranks to pull on your family



Make Marvelous Mini Rooms

Create adorable furniture that can fit on the tip of your finger!

Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi